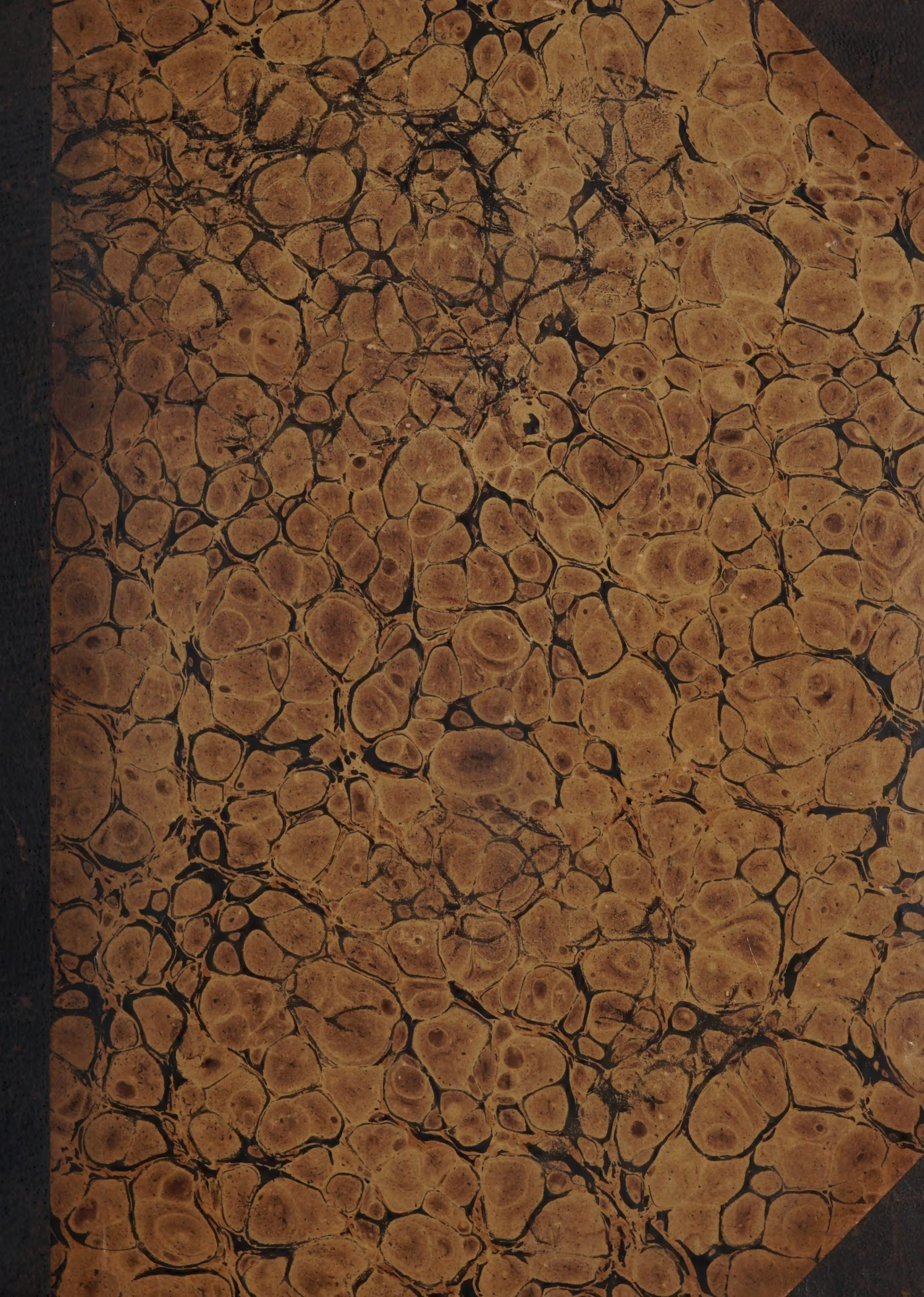

Copy

Memoir of
Mrs
Sarah (Davenport (Parsons) Phelps

And some brief notices of
a few
of her near relations

Charles	born	Sep	18.	1801.	Friday		-1882
Edward	"	Aug	17.	1803.	Wednesday		
Sarah	"	Mar.	16.	1805.	Saturday		1886
Francis	"	Jany	3.	1807.	Saturday		
Elizabeth	"	Dec	4.	1808	Sunday		
Marianne	"	Sep	13.	1810	Thursday		
Louisa	"	June	27.	1812	Saturday		
Caroline	"	Aug	22.	1814	Monday		
Arthur	"	March	16.	1817	Sunday		
Theophilus	"	Aug.	26.	1821	Sunday		1899
William	"	Jany.	26.	1823	Sunday		1880
Charlotte	"	March	9.	1825	Wednesday.	Tu. June 13. 71	
Frederic	"	Feb	21.	1826	Tuesday		
Susan	"	March	13.	1827	Tuesday.	Sat. Dec 2. 65	

Charlotte 2nd wife of C.P.	1793		-1830

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Huzzar Uniform 109
Member of company at End. 159

Introductory Remarks

The following pages – containing such reminiscences of the life & character of Sarah Davenport (Parsons) Phelps, as now present themselves most distinctly to my mind – have been prepared chiefly for the purpose of preserving, it may be for a few years longer, the fleeting remembrance of some of the more prominent scenes and events of her life – There are few now living, who were ever acquainted with her, & who can have any recollection of her person, or any knowledge of her history; the greater part of which must necessarily pass into oblivion with myself, unless reserved in this way.

I have occasionally revolved in my mind the idea, of bringing down this recital of events, in my own life, to a much later period; but besides the fact that I can more readily call to mind things that happened half a century ago, than those which are of much more recent occurrence, a peculiarity I believe somewhat incident to very advanced age, the experience of several successive weeks has convinced me that I am too much enfeebled & broken down already to continue these wearisome exertions –

My labors have been brought thus far only with many interruptions & increasing delays. Continuous thinking very sensibly distracts & confuses my mind, & the very structure of my eyes seems so deranged, & the sight so distorted, that I could not now without pain & difficulty accomplish any task, that would require a protracted effort. And I must try to content myself with remaining idle & useless during the little portion of life that may yet be allotted to me.

The memoir of my wife is prefaced by a brief & very imperfect introductory sketch of her father, gathered from the scanty materials which I have been able to collect.

There are also some short notices occasionally inserted of a few of her most intimate relations —

The incidents in the life of Sally Davenport (as she was called even for some years after marriage — to distinguish her from Mrs Gorham Parsons — who was usually called Sally,) were generally so closely interwoven with the events of my own, during twenty six years of my earliest manhood, that our mutual histories for that period are nearly identical, & cannot easily be disjoined — we are therefore on most occasions found united. There are several subjects of which more or less notice has been taken in these pages, which have little or no connection with their main object - which may be either omitted or read as digressions —

The individuals, besides my wife, to whom special reference is made in this memoir are —
The Rev Moses Parsons of Byfield.
Susannah (Davis) Parsons his wife.
Moses Parsons, of Haverhill, their son.
Mary Parsons, Mrs John Gray, their daughter
Madam Sarah (Gerrish) Davenport, Sarah's Grandmother
Of Sarah's mother, I can obtain scarcely an incident.
Mrs Elizabeth Phelps, my mother.

I have no doubt that these sketches brief & imperfect as they are, will be read with gratification & interest, by such of the children of my first wife, as may still be her survivors, when these pages shall be open to their perusal —— And to them they are affectionately inscribed
by their father
Charles P. Phelps

Hadley Aug 8. 1857
(The day of the week (Saturday) & month on which I was born in 1772 - 85 years ago

Moses Parsons Esqr of Haverhill was the oldest child of the Rev Moses Parsons of Byfield a parish of Newbury in Massachusetts; & was born May 13th 1744. He was educated at Dummer Academy in that place, then kept by the long celebrated Master Moody; took his first degree at Harvard College in 1765; and qualified himself for the practice of Law; but when he commenced, I have not had the means of ascertaining. On the 5th May 1774. he was married to Sarah Davenport, a daughter of William Davenport & Sarah (Gerrish) Davenport, of Newburyport — a Lady of considerable beauty & respectable parentage, but possessing little pecuniary wealth — to whom he was most ardently attached. Somewhere about that period I have understood that he was for a while engaged in the English Goods business; but not being very successful he soon relinquished it. At this time he lived in Newburyport, but I believe that he never commenced Housekeeping there or elsewhere —

On the 26 of Jany 1775 his wife presented him a daughter — but at the sacrifice of her own life — for she survived its birth only about three weeks, & died on the 14th of Feb following The shock was overwhelming — & crushed him to the dust. it entirely destroyed his hopes & almost his reason — after a length of time his friends persuaded him to remove to Haverhill, a town on the Merrimac River.

about 15 miles from Newburyport, & open a Law office. Here he followed his profession accordingly as his health & spirits permitted. He usually visited his brother's family in Newburyport several times in the year, & his other relations occasionally - tho not very frequently, and all his journeys I believe were taken on horseback. He was a boarder during the whole of his residence in Haverhill; & from the time I first saw him in 1792 till his death, he was subjected to frequent attacks of Rheumatic & other cronic affections. After the loss of his wife he renounced all general society, which had now become divested of all its charms; & seemed to take little interest even in the exciting events of that period. He had in early life obtained an excellent education & an honorable profession; but with all these advantages he was never able to acquire any. (It is supposed the writer intended to complete the sentence by the addition of the word wealth or property. F.P.) His professional business must have been in great measure limited to Haverhill & the towns in its vicinity, & probably never afforded him more than a personal, even if so much as that. (There seem to be some word omitted here also. F.P.)

At the age of thirty he was a man of uncommonly fine personal appearance - nearly six feet in height - full formed - muscular and well-proportioned - with an intelligent eye, tho not so piercing as that of his sister Susanna, (Mrs James Gray of Epsom) or his brother Theophilus - he was by far the handsomest of all the family, excepting perhaps his sister Judith, who was some years afterwards married to Anthony Davenport, but who died in two or three years after her marriage - I remember him at the age of about fifty, after his constitution had been much shattered both by physical disease and mental suffering, & his appearance was still quite prepossessing & dignified & bore upon it, as was said, much of the impress of his early years - He was generally considered to have been fully as well informed in the science of Law - as his brother Theophilus; & his talents were no doubt originally quite as well adapted to the profession, & if the early circumstances of his life had been equally propitious to their application & exercise, he might have risen to equal celebrity. He possessed very strong powers of mind - a quick perception - & a ready wit, equal if not superior to that of his brother. His conversation was interesting, but facility of speech when I knew him, was somewhat impaired by ~~many~~ the loss of many of his teeth; a misfortune common, I believe, to the whole family, as I never knew a Parsons who carried in his head a set of sound natural teeth, who was thirty years old - His daughter lost the greater part of hers before she was twenty. For several of his last years the state of his health had prevented him from giving much of his attention to his professional business, & I have been informed that he never himself argued any of his cases — but handed them over to some one of his brother lawyers to manage** them at the trial before the jury — who of course received the arguing fee. Mr Parsons remained at Haverhill till 1801 — He had evidently been failing for a long time previous; & in July of that year it was thought advisable to remove him to Boston, where he could receive the care & attention of his daughter — Mrs Phelps — He arrived there in a very feeble state, and though delighted to find himself at last, (almost for the first time since his marriage) in a real home, he felt that it must prove to be but a short & momentary one. For several days he rose — dressed himself — & sometimes walked about the house — (which was the one next above his brother Eben's in Summer St. & in which Charles Phelps was born a few weeks afterwards) But his physical powers were exhausted, & an early & inconsolable affliction with occasional bodily disease, of some severity had at last worn him out.

On Saturday, (I think the first day of August) he passed the forenoon much as usual, He had apparently suffered little bodily pain since his arrival in Boston, about noon he went to his chamber — & laid himself down — Old Violet brought up in his father's family, & who was then with us, attended him — about half past one a change seemed to be passing over him & before two o'clk the spirit had departed. He died peacefully and without an apparent struggle —

The funeral took place the next day — the weather being very warm — and his body was laid in his brother Eben's tomb in the "Common Burying Ground" near the foot of the Mall in Boston,

Sarah Davenport Parsons — the daughter of Moses Parsons, then of Newburyport, & Sarah Davenport of the same place, was born there on the 26 day of January, 1775. Her mother dying about 3 weeks after her birth, she was left an orphan almost at the very threshold of her existence, & never realized the blessing of a mother's love. — yet she was by no means abandoned — she found friends in her mother's family — into whose hands & care, she of course most naturally fell — tho' she was not as I have heard, very tenderly cherished & watched over during some of her earlier years — But it must be remembered that her Uncles & Aunts, had families of their own — which needed their chief care & attention, & she probably found her truest & kindest friend, tho not perhaps her most efficient one in her maternal grandmother, Madam Davenport.

But she was then, or not long afterward — became a widow — & resided with one of her sons — & of course had little to give, but her affection — which she never ceased to manifest till her death —

I remember her well — for I was somewhat of a favorite with her — She usually passed a very pleasant & interesting day, two or three times a year with her favorite grandchild — when in later life she occasionally resided for some months at a time with her Uncle Theophilus — Madam Davenport was in figure rather short, round & fair in face — full formed & fleshy — She was a lady of good sense agreeable & easy manners & pleasing conversation. Kind & amiable in her disposition. always cheerful & hopeful — and a humble Christian both in heart ~~& life~~ Life — Her visits never failed to give delight & were always welcomed by the whole family

William Davenport the maternal Grand father of my first wife, was born in Boston, Oct 19. 1717. married Sarah Gerrish of Newburyport, Apl 3. 1740 — and died Sep 2 1773 — For some years before his death, I know not how many, He kept a publick House in Newburyport, in what has since been called State St, a House then & afterwards well known as the Genl: Wolfe tavern. & whose reputation was well sustained by his son Moses thro the remainder of the Century.

His wife Sarah Gerrish was born 1716. She died Feb 10. 1802, surviving her husband about 29 years — the last ten years of her life, & probably the whole, of her widowhood, she lived with her Son Moses — the house in which she was born is still standing (1857) in Water St Newburyport, & is in good repair — the above facts I got from Moses Davenport Apl 27 1857

During the infancy & childhood of Sarah, I have understood that she resided the greater part of the time among her mother's relations - the depressed State of her father's feelings, & the unsettled condition of his life, had equally disabled him from furnishing her a home - & disqualified him from rendering that personal care & supervision of the welfare & education of his daughter, which is always so desirable - & the loss of which in her case, practically entailed upon her many of the evils of a double orphanage - In subsequent years her advantages were increased but though they never afforded the means of literary acquisition - which were rarely accessible to females of that day - she so improved the opportunities that she did possess, as fully to enable her to manage with great energy & discretion - every domestic concern and to discharge with the entire self possession, gentleness of manners - and exact decorum, all the social duties which her position in life at any time demanded of her

The Rev Moses Parsons of Byfield, Sarah's Grandfather, died on the 14 Dec 1783 - She was now nearly nine years of age, & I suppose that her tutelage & home, had for sometime previous to that event been transferred from the Davenport to the Parsons Family.

After the death of Mr Parsons, his two Sons Eben & William purchased a small house in South St. Boston, on the West Side, six or eight rods from Summer St, near their own houses, & removed their mother's family into it probably in the early part of the year 1784 May or June. The family then consisted of Madam Parsons, the widow, her daughter Mary, and possibly her daughter Judith, but she was probably married to Mr Davenport not very long after her father's death — her granddaughter Sarah, & Violet, a black woman brought up in the family from her childhood — Moses P. Gray & Theodore P. Gray of Epsom, were in subsequent years members of the family, & one of them may have gone there at first —

This arrangement continued substantially the same till the family was broken up by the death of Madam Parsons Dec 18. 1794.

During the last three years of its continuance I was a frequent visitor, & can bear willing testimony that it then seemed always to be a pleasant & happy home. The entire charge of its support for the whole period was borne chiefly & I think wholly, by those two brothers Eben & Wm

A short & very imperfect sketch from fast fading recollections, is all that I can furnish of that uncommon woman — Madam Susanna Parsons — Her form was of about average height — & much inclined to corpulency — I suppose that she could at no time of her life, made the smallest pretension to personal beauty, But she probably never regretted, even if she was ever conscious of the loss; for she possessed remarkable powers of mind, with great energy of character, and entire self reliance. In the early part of her married life she managed her family with skill & success.

But she was always a great reader, & after her daughters became competent to take charge of the domestic affairs they were left chiefly to their care and direction, & much of her own time was devoted to reading & conversation - Her logical powers were vigorous, & were always kept polished & effective by constant exercise - She could hold an able argument on almost any subject, & with almost any disputant; & tho she might sometimes be silenced she could seldom be convinced that she was wrong. In conversation her language was apt & forcible & expressed her meaning without circumlocution or mistake, & her words & manners rarely betrayed any great desire to please or propitiate her hearers - Her diction was often rude, & her demeanor supercilious & repelling, & by the young & those of conscious inferiority, & especially by persons of a nervous & shrinking sensibility, she was usually feared & avoided. Her perfect independence both in thought & expression were even proverbial & her advice to a young clergyman, a stranger then sitting at her own table - "never to try to acquire a relish for olives, as they were a rare & very costly luxury, & those they were then eating were the gift of a friend, & there were not many even of them," affords a pretty fair specimen of both. "I tell the tale as it was told to me."

Some of the most distinguishing traits in Madam Parsons's mind & character, were highly developed in several of her family - the astonishing power so early displayed & so efficiently exerted by Judge Parsons were doubtless in no small degree transmitted to him from his Mother; & indeed her peculiar grasp of intellect, was strongly marked in all her children – When I first saw her she was suffering from an attack of paralysis, which had seized her some years before, & which had broken down her physical powers, & rendered her in a great degree helpless – but her mind was still quite strong & vigorous – She had long become impatient of life, & was daily rejoicing in the bright anticipation of a speedy & blissful reunion with her "dear husband,"

Of the character of the Rev Moses Parsons, her husband, I know but little – as he died many years before my acquaintance with the family – But I have ever heard him spoken of as a man of strong good sense – amiable in disposition – of agreeable & gentlemanly manners – firm in purpose – inflexibly upright in heart & life – & ardently devoted to the cause of his Master – & the good of his people – (See a discourse preached on the occasion of his death by David Tappan of Newbury) –

A short Notice of this daughter Mary P. may very appropriately be inserted here – Some few months after the death of Madam Parsons – (say in 1795), this daughter was married to Capt John Gray – formerly master of a merchant vessel engaged in the West India Trade, but at this time a merchant of handsome property & owning a house directly opposite to her previous habitation – He was many years older than herself –

a widower – & without children – His early life as was often the case with those of his class in the latter part of the last century – had afforded but few opportunities of acquiring any knowledge beyond that appertaining exclusively to his sea-faring profession – He was considered frank & honest in his dealings – but gross in manners ~~in manners~~ & not very gentle either in disposition or habits, & totally unaccustomed to the delicacy & refinements of social intercourse – Brought up as she had been – not indeed in the lap of affluence or elegance, but always surrounded by the genial & cheering influences of a quiet, happy & christian home – it of course created no little surprise & regret among her friends when they first learnt her intention to marry him – But she proved herself a true Parsons & fully sustained the family character – they were not often diverted from their purpose – & if in this instance the attempt had been made, it doubtless would have proved unsuccessful –

Mary had very little property, & could not brook a pecuniary dependence even upon her brothers – a liberally supplied table – a well furnished house & home, offered for her acceptance, was a proposal too inviting under her circumstances to be rejected – & she became his wife – No one – I suppose not even himself – for a moment believed him to be the husband of her affections, & none ever doubted that she was a faithful and devoted wife – But the evils which had been predicted or apprehended, were not, I think, realized by her to any great extent — I often saw her, frequently at home during her married life — but cannot call to mind any instance in which she manifested disappointment in her condition or betrayed any emotion of sorrow or regret at having entered into it.

But whatever may have been her trials, they were not of any long continuance — early in the winter of 1797 she was confined by the birth of a daughter, which event she survived only about three weeks — she died in Feb, & her child followed her, I think, within the year —

Mary Parsons, Mrs John Gray, was born Sept 14 1763. In many respects she resembled her brother William — & possessed in a good degree the mental characteristics of her family — Her heart was strongly alive to religious emotions, — Her manners were gentle & retiring — her social feelings kind & sincere — her moral & Religious feelings unfaltering — and her purity of heart & life without a stain.

From the record of the Parsons family I learn that the first emigrant from England was Jeffry Parsons, who married Sarah Vinton Their children were James — Jeffry — Sarah — John — Elizabeth — Jeremiah — Nathaniel — Abigail & Eben — He married Lydia Haskell — & their children were — Lydia — — Eben lost at sea — Jacob — Nathaniel — Isaac born June 11. 1714. died July 5. 1767. Moses born June 20 1716. and Eunice — This Moses graduated at H. C. 1736. married Susanna Davis. Jany 11. 1743. was ordained at Byfield June 20. 1744 and died Dec 14. 1783. Their children were Moses — born May 13. 1744. & died Aug 1801. Eben born Feb 27. 1746. married Mary Gorham, May 9. 1767 died in 1819 — Theophilus born Jany 15 1748, died Jany 27. 1749. Theophilus born Feb 13. New Style, 24 Old Style, 1750 — married Elizabeth Greenleaf Jany 1780 died Oct 30 1813. Theodore, Aug 1. 1757. lost at sea in 1779 — Susanna (Mrs James Gray apl 28 1753. died 1826 — William " Aug 6. 1755 died March 19 1837. Judith (Mrs Davenport) Nov 7. 1757. died Nov 1. 1787 — a daughter not named May 13 1760 & died — Mary (Mrs John Gray) Sep 14. 1763. died Feb 1797.

Capt James Gray. the husband of Susanna Parsons, was a revolutionary officer — their home was at Epsom New Hampshire — & several of their children are still settled there. Judith Parsons married Anthony Davenport in ________ she left a child that survived her a a year or two only. William Parsons married another Elizabeth Greenleaf. but they never had any children — Eben had one son that survived him — Gorham — Theophilus had a large family

After somewhat of a digression, I resume the notice of Sarah Davenport Parsons — the first 3 pages of these Memoranda brought us to the close of 1794. when the family of Madam Parsons in Boston was separated. But during the residence of Sarah with her grandmother, she frequently visited the family of her Uncle Theophilus at Newburyport. & occasionally spent some months there. While on one of these visits a circumstance occurred which I cannot allow to pass unrecorded.

My first arrival at ~~the~~ that place when I entered the office of Mr Parsons as a Law Student, happened I think on the 26 Jany & it had been previously arranged that I should board in his family — my father accompanied me. we arrived at the house sometime after sunset, when the following somewhat amusing as well as little embarrassing incident took place

The candles had not yet been brought in, the twilight was fast advancing; & Mrs Parsons was at that time occupied in another part of the house — when we entered the parlor, a lady was standing there to receive us — My father, very naturally supposing her to be Mrs Parsons, presented me to her, remarking that he was happy to be allowed the privilege of introducing his son as a member of her family; & that he took the liberty of committing him with entire confidence to her personal care & guardianship

The lady proved to be the daughter of Moses Parsons of Haverhill — & then residing in her Uncle's family — But of course was not then prepared to accept the charge so confidingly tendered to her, Whether this incident, which was sometimes sportively alluded to in the family had any direct agency in inducing her to assume this responsibility at a later period. I have no means of positively deciding. But it did in fact so happen, that when a personal offer of himself was some years afterwards made to her, the trust was not declined, and she then consented to unite her destiny with his —

In the autumn of 1792 the town of Boston authorized a general inoculation of the small pox — & great numbers of the people from different parts of the state, availed themselves of the opportunity to take the disorder — Among others were the family of Mr Parsons, He & his wife with their few oldest children who had never had the disease, went to Boston & resided thro the month of Sep. in the family with his Mother. Not having had the small pox myself, I accompanied them to Boston for the purpose of taking it. & tho not living with them, held daily intercourse with them for about 5 weeks. during which time I became quite intimate with the family — Sarah was then living with her grandmother —

Time silently passed on — & two rapid years but little varied the monotonous life of the inmates at South St. But a change then came, the death of Madam Parsons, closed the scene with the close of the year 1794.

It now became necessary for Sarah to seek another home — & Providence very kindly opened an inviting door in the house of her Uncle Theophilus at Newburyport, to which she repaired shortly after her grandmother's decease, She continued to be a welcome member of his family, except on some few occasional visits, for three years, sharing the support, care & affection of her Uncle & Aunt, & the love of her children till her marriage, & in fact till 3 months after that event. In return for which she devoted for five years, her time – services. to the interest & welfare of the family, & on several occasions having the supervision & management of all the domestic concerns. The obligations & benefits mutually resulting from that connexion, may perhaps, be fairly estimated as balanced on both sides – at any rate, both I believe were satisfied; & certainly a very sincere & uninterrupted attachment & Intercourse between the families was always maintained throughout the whole of her life.

From the close of the year 1794. the hopes & the happiness both of Miss Parsons & myself were closely interwoven – The term of my clerkship expired the last of Jany, but as no court was to be holden till April, for the County of Essex, I remained in the office two months longer, The delay however, caused no regret on my part; – & perhaps the intermediate weeks were not on that acc rendered any the *more* wearisome to her. On the 1st Tuesday in April at the court of Common Pleas in Ipswich, I was admitted a member of the Massachusetts Bar. I went immediately to Boston, & shortly afterwards there opened an office –

But an incident which occurred about this time demands a full & distinct notice, especially as it threatened for a while, to give a new shape & direction to the destiny of each of us - It is said that the current of true love can never flow smoothly on to the consummation of its hopes; but must sooner or later be agitated or impeded by some inauspicious flaw of wind or hidden reef, and our case proved to be no exception to the rule -

In the early part of June in that year 1795 there was to be an ordination at Haverhill; & it was arranged that Mr Parsons's family, & some of Mrs Parsons's sisters - the Greenleafs should attend.

What demon of Folly - or madness - took possession of me I know not - But so it was that in an evil hour, I invited Jane Greenleaf to accompany me in my chaise - & left Miss Parsons to get a seat with her Uncle's family as best she might - The party I think were entertained that day at the hospitable mansion of Baily Bartlett, the High Sheriff of the County. Whether I absented myself from the dinner table from a guilty consciousness - or from a feeling of unworthiness - I cannot well now decide; but my present conviction is quite strong that I was not one of the Company; of this at least, I am fully certain, that I did not deserve to be one.

We returned to Newburyport, & after escorting Miss Greenleaf to her father's, I called in the evening to see my betrothed - It may be presumed that the interview was short. Her countenance was placid tho sad, & she barely received me with a

chilling -

& heart-withering recognition. There was no crimination — not a complaint even — not an unkind or hasty word escaped her lips — not a feature of her face betrayed the slightest tinge of an angry emotion, But she would listen to no excuse, could be moved neither by confession nor entreaty, & I soon felt that every attempt to apologize only exasperated the bitterness of the insult — after a brief interview, with a decision admitting neither doubt nor delay She bade me a final farewell. — No pen can describe the feelings I endured for several succeeding days, — the world was all a blank — & changing only a word in the stanza of a then favorite song, I adopted entirely its sentiment & fully realized its force.

"I squandered all my treasure"
"I journeyed many a mile"
"And by my grief did measure"
"The passing time the while."

The next day I returned to Boston, but with little relish either for *love* or *Law*. What was the cause or motive for this wanton laceration of an affectionate heart, this cruel attack upon the peace & happiness of her, whom I best loved, or the gratuitous self-infliction of unmittegated evil on myself, did at the time & for more than half a century since has surpassed all my reasoning to explain, or fully even to comprehend — Heaven is my witness that nothing could have tempted me — *willingly* or *consciously* to have caused her the slightest momentary pang — yet here was an unprovoked outrage, not merely against the common courtesies of social life

But apparently a premeditated affront to the tenderest sensibilities of the human heart. What could have produced it, but utter madness or folly —

The most plausible — tho still perhaps not entirely satisfactory explanation of the affair may possibly be found in a somewhat peculiar trait of my mind & character. A morbid & depressing sensitiveness has always marked my feelings — but at that period of my life doubtless acted with greater intensity than in later years — An in addition to this, I have never been able at anytime wholly to escape from the withering influence of a strong, tho somewhat singular — proclivity to self depreciation, & a tendency, at least, to magnify — if not multiply my actual deficiencies — This shrinking sensation has attended me thro life — & tho it may sometimes have been productive of good, yet, having so often become its victim, I have no doubt that on the whole, it has proved baneful & disastrous.

The operation of this peculiar temperament may have had a very considerable agency in shaping my conduct on that memorable occasion; tho' I might not at the time have been in any degree conscious of its influence — The idea of presenting myself before so public an assemblage — & in such a new attitude & character, of attracting probably the annoying notice of some, or of exciting the unkind — or sarcastic remarks of others, the dread of violating some prescribed punctilio — or of assuming some false position — the apprehension of making myself in some way ridiculous or contemptible; & of subjecting to mortification & perhaps disgrace, her, whom in truth I most desired to propitiate & honor — these & many other absurd & idle fancies of a disordered imagination, might have taken entire possession of me; — & instead of rendering me simply ridiculous, as I feared, virtually transformed me into a self-created brute.

Such may have been the origin & progress of the mistakes & errors of that luckless day.

But the separation, whatever might have been its cause, had been but too surely & sadly accomplished — & still more — it had been pronounced final by her — who alone had the power to reverse the decision — & as such had been, *however reluctantly*, submitted to by myself, nothing of course remained but to bear the evil which could not be removed — —— Months passed away —— I saw her not — & scarcely heard her name, unless when uttered by myself in moments of lonely isolation —

My intercourse with the Parsons families however was not broken off — tho very naturally less frequent & familiar. They continued to treat me with civility & apparent (and I doubt not) sincere kindness — Towards the close of the year Miss Parsons visited her Uncle Williams family in Boston. As I had obtained some premonition of the event, I so regulated my movements & conduct, as to escape the danger of discomposing the feelings, — or disturbing the happiness of either himself or his friends —

I will now revert for a moment to my own business affairs — after leaving Newburyport in April 1795. I went to Hadley, & spent nearly two months. At the general Election in May I again returned to Boston to enter upon my profession. In June I hired an office — by way of experiment in what was then called North End. Some few rods below the Mill bridge, on the East side of what was then Middle St now I believe Hanover St, & boarded for six or eight weeks with John Russell, a brother of Ben. Russell — John was then one of the Publishers of the Boston Commercial Gazette, & lived on the east side of Congress St. 3 or 4 rods North of Water St. After a few months trial, I think without having a single client, I quit that office, & engaged one on Pemberton's Hill — in Scollays Buildings. & Early in August I took a journey to Berwick, in the then District of Maine. with a view to a new location of myself — But the prospect was not flattering — From Aug to the close of the year I boarded with Wm Morrill, on the West side of Union St. near the Boston Stone. I then went to Mrs Mc Niels in Federal St, two doors South of Round Lane; where I remained a boarder till April 1799. when I relinquished the profession.

If Providence had ever intended that I should be a Lawyer, it would have furnished me with the qualities requisite for that purpose, & with fewer of those calculated so entirely to defeat it. My fees in the four years scarcely paid my expenses

The Spring of 1796. was now far advanced & nearly a year had elapsed since the Separation between Miss Parsons & myself had taken place, But had all my hopes died out as these months had slowly passed away? Probably not — There was however but very little foundation that could any where be discovered for them to rest upon — During this period various rumors had been floating about, which had occasionally met my ears, but which could afford me but small encouragement, if any such hope had survived — It was said that Mr ~~Black~~ — a Lawyer from the interior of New Hampshire had made advances towards her affections. Also that a gentleman from Boston Mr —— who had two or three years before made her an offer of his hand, which I was aware had then been declined, had recently renewed the offer with hope of better success — & further that Mr —— another Boston gentleman, an officer in the Navy, had made proposals of marriage to her — (tho I am not quite certain at this late day) that the last named offer was not made a year or two after this time)

There had been without doubt a latent hope lurking about the recesses of the heart, the existence of which, I had scarcely dared to acknowledge, even to myself, but which had in some degree influenced my feelings & conduct.

during the whole of this period of our separation.

This state of shadowy doubt & undefined hope had now become quite irksome & somewhat perplexing - & I at once resolved to make a final effort, either to restore myself to her forfeited favor - or on the other hand to ensure the extinction of all my hopes by a repeated - & what in this case would inevitably prove to be - ~~an~~ irreversible rejection.

In May 1796 my father was chosen Representative for Hadley, & my mother accompanied him to Boston. She was then desirous of visiting her early friend Mrs Spring - (the wife of Rev. Mr Spring of Newburyport and daughter in Law of the Rev Saml Hopkins of Hadley) whom she had not seen for many years - as my law business was not pressing, I took ~~my~~ father's horse & chaise - early in June - & carried her to Newburyport.

While there I availed myself of the opportunity to solicit the favor of one more interview with Miss Parsons - The request was not refused - the interview was less brief than our last one; tho it seemed to me but a fleeting moment, - yet it was long enough to restore & confirm the confidence which I had so foolishly forfeited - & to obliterate many unwelcome memories of a sad & sorrowful year - I returned to Boston with a lighter heart than I had borne for many a lingering month - Not long after this Miss Parsons visited her Aunt Mary - Mrs John Gray, & again the following winter, which she spent with her Aunt Gray till her death, which took place Feb 1797 - She then returned to Newburyport, & continued to be a member of her Uncle Theophilus's family till her marriage -

In the month of Sep 1798 She accompanied me on a visit to my fathers family in Hadley where we spent four weeks & the last of which was saddened by the death & funeral of my grandmother Porter, which took place early in Oct. - Having in the following winter concluded to relinquish the legal profession, I closed my Office & business on the 1st of April 1799 & removed to Hadley; where I was occupied till late in the Autumn superintending the alterations & repairs of my father's house to render it convenient for the accommodation of two families, as I proposed bringing a wife there in the ensuing Spring -

The wedding day was at length named; & On Wednesday the 1st of Jany 1800, & in the family of Theophilus Parsons Esq, in Newburyport, my long desired - tho long delayed, Union, with Sarah Davenport Parsons, was indissolubly, & surely on my part, most joyfully ratified & confirmed -

The ceremony was performed by the joint services of Rev Mr Cary & Rev Mr Andrews - the associate ministers of the first society in that town - Mr Cary pronouncing the marriage formula

The distance was such that none of my family were able to be present, except my sister Betsey, who accompanied me - nearly all Sarah's relations attended & many of her friends - Mr & Mrs Hitchcock, then living at Brimfield, at whose house we passed a night on our journey down, sent by me to Mrs Parsons, a fine haunch of venison which he chanced to have on hand as a wedding present -

And what greatly enhanced the favor — He — having forgotten to mention his design before our departure — followed us nearly six miles, on a very cold freezing morning in Midwinter in order to overtake us with his forgotten present.

Thus after a lapse of eight years the Lady, who had so long before been typically, if not prophetically, constituted my tutelary guide & protectress — had now voluntary assumed the trust — had been duly invested with all its attributes — & was thenceforth to be my adviser — my comforter — my solace, — my unfaltering Friend — And all this she was till the last hour of her life   The plan of life which I had been the last year preparing to carry out, was now changed, & arrangements were making to form a connection in business with Edward Rand who had served his clerkship in the store of Mr Eben Parsons; & who for a year or two past had been in Mr Parsons's employment abroad. The vessel had been taken by the pirates of Africa, & he had been some months a captive in Tunis, but having been recently redeemed, as was then the mode of doing those things — had now arrived in Boston — Shortly after my marriage this agreement was completed, & went into effect on the 1st of April following — We then commenced business at No 3 Codman's Wharf, at the head of what was then the town dock, & on the site (or very near it) where the 3 Store on So. Market St now stands —

This partnership, while it lasted, was very successful & promising; but was abruptly closed by the death of Mr Rand; who fell in a duel by the hand of Chas Miller jr of Boston - about the Middle of June 1801.

Mr Rand possessed uncommon business talents and had gone thro' a complete mercantile education - & had he lived, would probably have been a distinguished Merchant.

In the transition state of my business at that time, it was thought best that my Wife - for such I could then proudly call her - should remain with her Aunt till April; accordingly on the first of that month she bade adieu to her long cherished home, & with moistened eyes took a parting view of her native soil - We proceeded to Boston & spent about two months there in the families of Mr William Parsons & Mr Gorham Parsons. the greater part of the time as the guests of her Uncle. Early in June she accompanied me on a visit to Hadley to my father's family - I remained there with her about three weeks & then rejoined my partner Rand in Boston, In Aug I hired a house of Mr Josiah Knapp next South of his own on the East side of Orange St. a few rods South of the east end of Elliot St. Sally, as my wife was then usually called, returned with me to Boston in Augt. At her Uncle Eben's invitation we became his guests for two or 3 weeks, while making preparation for going to House Keeping - At length on the 1st Sep. 1800 the furniture having all been duly removed to our future residence, a square three foot table was set out & spread, & we seated ourselves with due

dignity & decorum on opposite sides of it with an excellent beef steak between us, & thus joyously & gratefully shared together our first meal in our own welcome home - It is somewhat pertinent to the occasion here to state, that Mr Wm Parsons on the same day removed from his hired house on the North side of Summer St to his own new house built on the Easterly Corner of Summer & South Streets -
It was probably only a few weeks previous to this, that Mr Theoph Parsons say early in Aug. removed his family from Newburyport to Boston to L. Gov Cushing house in Bromfield's Lane, where the Hotel now stands,

Soon after this my father & Mother made us a visit - & gave us a quarto family Bible, which has been in constant use from that day to the present - having been rebound many years since.

Mr Eben Parsons having in the latter part of the year purchased the small estate in Summer St. next westerly of his own dwelling house, & offering it to me at a much cheaper rent than I was then paying, about christmas we left Orange St & removed to that location - On the 1st of January following we attended the wedding of my sister Huntington at Hadley & returning to Boston, then a two days journey, on Tuesday the 6th arrived in season to be present at the marriage of James Carter & Ann Roberts, at Mr Wm Parsons's house in the Evening - which had many years been her home -
In the Summer of 1800 the Firm had removed to a very eligible store on Long Wharf No 28. & our business, which was done on Commission, had now

become, through the patronage & influence of Mr Eben & Gorham Parsons, & the practical agency & talent of Mr Rand the junior partner, quite extended - & gave a flattering promise of soon becoming prosperous & profitable - But all our own bright prospects & the exhilarating hopes of our friends, were in one fatal moment blasted & swept away by his untimely & shocking death.

Late in the afternoon of Saturday June 13. or _possibly_ a week later, Mr Rand met me in State St & taking from his pocket-book a parcel of Bank Bills observed that as he should probably go out of town in the morning, I had better take charge of them - it being then too late to deposite them in Bank. I took them & he passed on - It was the last time I ever saw him -

The next morning, Sunday the 14th, Charles Bradbury a fellow boarder with Mr Rand at Mrs Carter's boarding house, called upon me about 9. & said that there was a report in town, that Mr Rand had been dangerously wounded in a duel with Charles Miller - at Dorchester point, as it was then called, - He professed to know little about the facts, but hearing the rumor, he had called to apprize me of it - I immediately proceeded to investigate the affair - and soon ascertained that a meeting had taken place & that Rand was killed - I informed Mr Eben Parsons of such facts as I could collect, at his request & with his horse & chaise, I went to Brighton where Gorham Parsons then resided - After a consultation with him, I returned by the way of Roxbury to Dorchester point - where I arrived at 3 or 4 O'clk & found a large number of people aſsembled -

The body had been previously removed from the Beach just opposite Fort Independence, from which place the whole affair was witneſsed - to a barn on a farm near by - a Coroner's inquest had been already held, and the body was delivered to my care - I had it brought to the house - about dark, Mr G. Parsons & several other friends arrived - with a coffin, & the body was taken to Boston across the harbor - a small proceſsion was formed at the foot of Summer St-, & the body with the clothes on as it fell, was placed in a tomb in the Granary Burying ground, opposite to Bromfield's lane at about 11 O'clk in the night - Thus ended an eventful - sad & solemn Sunday -

It was reported at the time as a fact, stated by the sentinels at the fort, that Rand had the first fire & missed - & that then Miller took deliberate aim, (which *may* or *may not* have been true) but at any rate the aim was fatal, the ball passed through the heart & the left shoulder, a spasmodic effort raised him instantly into the air, & he dropped lifeleſs upon the ground -

There were coaches in waiting, & Miller & his second whose name I cannot now call to mind, tho' I believe he was in some way connected with the Army or Navy, both fled to New York, where Miller lived for several years in a sort of private exile -

Rand's second was his brother Isaac – a most improper & illjudged selection on every account; For if Rand had killed Miller, the two brothers must both have fled; & as it was, Dr Rand was bereft of his two Sons, for Isaac disappeared, & I certainly never heard of him afterwards – The next day Miller's challenge was found among the papers of Mr Rand, & at the sitting of the Court for Norfolk County, soon afterwards Miller was indicted for the murder – but he took good care never to place himself within reach of the civil officer – & I presume the indictment now lies in the files of the Clerk's office in Dedham –

I never was able to obtain any satisfactory account of the origin & progress of the quarrel. It was not till after his death, ~~that I ever~~ heard of its existence – tho doubtless some of Mrs Carter's boarders were well acquainted with all the circumstances – But after the terrible catastrophe, few were found willing to admit that they knew much about the affair – A lady of Rhode Island was probably the innocent cause of it; One day at the table I suppose Mr Rand made some piquant, or at any rate heedless remarks upon a lady in whom Miller it seems felt some interest, tho I never heard of any special attachment – this Miller resented, & excited feelings soon became apparent. Instead of smothering the flame, as probably might easily have been done –

some of the boarders seemed willing to enjoy the Sport, & the man, who was afterwards Miller's second, I thought there was always good reason to believe, was as really a party in the contest as was Miller himself - a challenge was sent & accepted - & in three days the short drama was closed - But the change wrought upon my own condition & prospects by this event, cannot be told, either for good or evil - that knowledge rests only with Him who does all things right.

My time during the remainder of the year was chiefly employed in closing up as fast as possible, the business of the late firm; for which I was almost as poorly qualified as I had been for originally carrying it on. In proof of which I may state a difficulty that arose in settling our accounts with Gorham Parsons. In my ignorance of the proper mercantile formulas of drawing off accounts, I had happened to close one of our accounts, unwittingly indeed, at a month, which according to the entries in our books when footed up, gave a *nominal* balance *against* him - while the next one when drawn off would have placed the business in its true & exact position, & given him the large balance, which really belonged to him - After looking at the account, which I presented him merely for the purpose of ascertaining its correctness thus far, without asking, or expecting, or desiring any payment or *settlement*, he broke forth in the most angry, violent & as seemed to me unprovoked, strain of personal abuse, that I ever received from any man in my life - several persons being present in his counting room at the time - After that, months & perhaps a year, passed without the least recognition of each other, Ill feeling at length subsided, but I do not remember how, tho there was never any explanation or apology on either side - In point of strict mercantile propriety, I was doubtless wrong - but as the error was one of ignorance & not of design, it might have been entitled to some small share of leniency -

Not long after the death of Mr Rand, my wife & myself made a visit to her father, at Haverhill - We found him very feeble & much reduced - & immediately after our return, arrangements were made for his removal to Boston, where he died on the 1st of Aug 1801. as is more fully stated in the special notice of his life

On the eighteenth of Sep 1801, friday, our first child - Charles - was born, & of course there was great rejoicing - He being the first-born of that generation - My business & family concerns passed quietly on through that & the succeeding year, with no special interruption, or noticeable incident - In March 1803 (or possibly March 1802) I was confined about three weeks with the measles; a disorder which I was always supposed to have passed through in early youth - It proved to be about as severe an illness as I ever suffered - In the latter part of the year 1801, I engaged under the auspices of Mr Wm Parsons, in some mercantile transactions on my own a/c. & during the following year sent several adventures to Europe - not indeed to any very great amount, but the profits of which had enabled me to support my family - But the peace which was about that time patched up between England & France, had in a great degree destroyed the profitable commerce, which had so long been carried on by the United States with the European Continent - with the view therefore of reducing my expenses, I concluded to remove my family to Hadley - The house I then occupied was owned by Mr Eben Parsons; we had lived in it about two years & a third, at a rent of two hundred dollars a year - On settling with him for the last third, he said he wished me to take the money & invest it for the benefit of my son Charles, then about a year & a half old - accordingly adding 8.33. making the sum 75 Dolls. & twenty five $ more, which my sister Huntington gave me for the benefit of her son Charles, I purchased a Share in the Boston Bank, just then going into operation the boys thus becoming partners, tho not in equal degree - I received the dividends for them till 1812 when the share was sold & the money divided - this laid the foundation of the little snug thousand or so, which Charles P. calls his own.

The last week in April 1803. having made all the necessary arrangements, including a strong, high mettled & valuable horse, for 200 $ & a chaise for a 120 $ (which had been made upon the true principle of Peter Pindar's razors - for sale) we started for Hadley. the roads at that day were in a condition very different from the state in which they are now seen, we had ascended the high Hill, which rises on the West-Side of Waltham Plain, about 12 Miles from Boston _ & had nearly reached the foot of it on the West-Side - when the wheel passed over a Stone on one of the Sharpest pitches of the hill - In an instant we found ourselves (my wife, myself & chaise) lying at the horse's heels - with the chaise top closed down upon his tail - The horse, of whose disposition & habits we had not the slightest Knowledge, stood as still & immovable as the rock we had been passing, & we were completely shut in between the chaise top & the horse's hind legs; but a good tempered & well trained horse, & a kind & watchfull Providence, saved us in our peril. with difficulty we raised the chaise, & walked our way once more into daylight. We had to repass the hill on foot ~~&~~ & to reach the nearest house at a quarter of a mile's distance _ where we found a Shelter - we were heavily loaded, besides having a trunk strapped across the forward bars; & ~~at~~ in passing the abrupt descent with so sudden a jolt, the pressure became too violent for the Pindaric Shafts to resist, & they snapped like two pipe stems. At length we got back to Waltham plain _ & having there lashed on a couple of poles for false shafts, we slowly crawled back to Boston.

And reached Uncle Theoph's in Pearl St (whence, we had started in the morning) at early tea time - Mr Eben Parsons declared his entire conviction that such a wonderful interposition of Providence betokened that Charles must have been preserved to accomplish some great & important design in the coming future. Having repaired the chair putting in bars behind to hold a trunk, & securing the shafts against a similar fracture, by an iron bar on the under side of each of them - on the first week in May, we again took our departure from Boston, and arrived at Hadley without further accident.

On Sunday the 8th day of May we had a severe storm - & snow fell to the depth of several inches - Though much earlier than usual, the apple trees were then in full bloom, & the weather quite cold & frosty; Yet the crop of apples in Autumn did not appear to have suffered the least injury. On the same day (8th) Elizabeth Huntington was born at Litchfield, my father & Mother being both of them there - In August, a Cashier of the then "New Boston Bank" was to be appointed - & Mr Theoph' Parsons advised me to apply for the office - I accordingly went to Boston & arrived there on Monday morning the 15th the day on which the choice was expected to be made; but for some reason the meeting was adjourned till the next week, when the choice fell upon Joseph Chapman, a much better man for the office than myself. This was the first request I ever made for an office in *civil* Life, & it ought to have been the last. From some conversation that had taken place between Uncle Theoph & several of the Directors, he had strong hopes of my success — But *David Sargent* Jr was one of the board. During my stay in Boston on this occasion, our 2d son, Edward, was born at Hadley on Wed. the 17 of August 1803 — a most beautiful child.

May 13. 1857

The unsteadiness of my brain, & the tremulousness of my eyes have prevented me from making much progress in the memoranda, which I have been recently attempting to note down; & as the difficulty seems to have increased considerably within the last two or three weeks I may probably be unable to enter into any minute or regular details of incidents that occurred in our family history subsequent to the birth of Edward. I will try however as I may have opportunity & ability, to state a few of the more prominent events that took place in the remaining years of our residence in Boston. which was closed simultaneously with the life of my beloved Sarah, My family was now at Hadley. Edward was born, & I continued my business in Boston, making my home at Mr Wm Parsons's, & visiting Hadley every two or three months. On one of these visits early in Feb 1804. Edward in his Mother's arms & in perfect health, was seized with a convulsion fit on the 7th of the month — It was not a severe one nor of long duration; but it produced a sudden & unwonted feeling of insecurity & & dependence upon a higher power which neither of us had ever felt before. In the course of the ensuing 12 months, he had perhaps six or eight similar attacks; but I think he had none afterwards, till the fatal day of his death in 1807.

In August 1804 I removed my family again to Boston, to the house No 59 Orange Street next South of Dr Dix - & owned by him. there Sarah was born on Sat 16th of March 1805. Early in Sep. following, I took my wife & baby on a visit to Hadley. On our return the 11th & 12th the weather was very hot & sultry during the day; but the Evng of the 11th in which we were obliged to ride till late at night in order to reach Worcester, was very chilly; & my father, who took the two Sarah's to Worcester, kept the back of his Phaeton up the whole evening. The next morning Sarah arose with a bad head ache. We were of course obliged to proceed on our journey at any hazzard. my father returned home, & I put Polly C (now Mrs Walls) who was going to reside with us in the Stage for Boston, where we all arrived late in the afternoon of the 12th. Sarah with a violent head ache & other strong symptoms of fever.

The next day she was taken down with ~~the~~ typhous fever, which confined her to her bed for several weeks. the baby Sarah was put out to nurse. & the Mother, through the attention & skill of Dr Hand, and the blessing of a kind & heavenly father upon his efforts, was at length restored to health. Polly Cooley was then perhaps 19 years old, & her visit at that juncture, seemed quite providential, as she took the entire charge of the family through the whole sickness.

About this time, probably the 1st of Sep. 1805, I formed a connexion in business with Wm Belcher, formerly a merchant in Savannah, but then living in Boston, & engaged in the Georgia trade. We employed two fine Brigs in the trade, which constantly ran between the two ports; bringing Cotton, rice & tobacco - which was usually consigned to us for sale, our business being that of Commission merchants, in addition to the freighting trade by those two packets. I think we occupied Store no 3 on India wharf. which had been then just completed. It was a double Store including the one in the same range on the north front of the same block; being no 3 on the South side, & I believe no 18 on the north side, We continued the business about two years. but as it did not prove to be very successful in the Summer of 1807 the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent. Mr Belcher still carrying it on in his own name. I retired from the firm without any pecuniary loss, receiving a few hundred dollars for my share of the balance on the settlement of the accounts.

I now go back to our family affairs -

As my business was now to be confined entirely to India Wharf. at the foot of Fort Hill. & as Josiah Quincy had just finished a block of dwelling houses on the west side of Oliver St on the very summit of the hill, & within gunshot of our store. I hired of him the middle one; & removed there from Orange St. about the 1st of Nov 1805. The following year passed off without any special incident that I remember, except the total & remarkable eclipse of the sun in June 1806: when the day was so dark that the fowls went to roost. The next, 1807. was a marked one, On Sat. the third day of Jany, our third son Francis, was born on Foxhill —— On Tuesday the 17th day of Feb. between two & three o'clk in the afternoon, Edward was seized with a violent convulsion fit — while sleeping on the sofa. He had complained of a headache during the forenoon & his face had been much flushed. He had been so long free from an attack of this kind — & had for a long time seemed in such perfect health, that we had almost ceased to have any apprehension of a return of his disorder. We called in Dr Rand the usual remedies were applied — the spasms at last subsided — and at evening he fell in a quiet sleep. His slumbers were so tranquil, that towards 11. o'clk at night we were preparing to retire to bed. I was at that moment sitting on the sofa holding him on a pillow in my lap — & his mother just preparing to leave the parlor — when a sudden shock seemed to lift him from the pillow — a tremulous groan — a long — long drawn breath — & the dear spirit — Edward himself had left us forever

On Friday following his body was placed in Uncle Eben's tomb by the side of his Grandfather whether or not we were made better by this bitter chastisement — God only knows — at any rate, it was grievous in the endurance, & a a sorrowful winter followed it.

We remained on Forthill till the last of July. In the meantime our house had become associated with many sad recollections, & my business at India wharf being soon to be closed, We left Forthill the 1st of Aug. & went to the house, making the ~~making the~~ corner of Milk St & Bath alley, nearly opposite the North West corner of Pearl St.

In July I had embarked in business again on my own account. By shipping 200 boxes of Havanna Sugar to Rotterdam, in Holland, costing about 8000 $, where it had the good luck to arrive in safety in spite of English orders in Council, and the French Milan decrees, sometime in Autumn. The trade to Europe having become exceedingly hazzardous & our own commerce being threatened with a total & indefinite, if not perpetual, embargo, I had resolved for a while to withdraw from all mercantile pursuits, & retire once more to our old quarters at Hadley.

About the last of Nov 1807 Charles took a bad cold, which settled into a lung fever. This was a second time of his being attacked with that disease - the 1st attack had been about Jany 1806 on Fort hill, & had been a very severe one. But Dr Rand's course, through a kind Providence proved successful in both cases. He bled him early on each occasion - Before he was well of the fever in this instance, he was seized with whopping cough - which was taken also by Sarah & Francis at the same time.

We had now reached the latter part of Jan, 1808 & business prospects still becoming daily more discouraging, & all the three children down with whooping cough, (not very bad) we lost no time in preparing for our journey to my father's; where we safely arrived about the middle of Feb. after a three days ride - The weather was mild - no sleighing - but a smooth icy path, - & I think. Andrew Morton, himself drove us up in one of his own hacks. On this occasion we noticed as a singular & certainly unexpected fact, that the children were rarely heard to cough, after the first day, and that on our arrival at Hadley, they seemed at once to be entirely recovered. In April I believe, the general embargo commenced, which was rigidly enforced for 12 months. In May I hired a house, garden &c in Hadley West St. of Jon^a Edw^ds Porter, who was just removing to New Haven - for one year at a rent of $120, which we immediately entered. Judge Parker, attended the Court in Northampton in Sep & we had the pleasure of several short visits from him on that occasion - I am not sure whether his wife accompanied him or not; my impression is that she did about this time I heard of the sale of my Sugar in Rotterdam at a very high price - the embarrassments to trade were so oppressive, that scarcely a cargo had ~~a port~~ reached a port on the continents of Europe for nearly a year past, of course all West India produce now commanded enormous prices; & Mr Cremer, my agent in Holland, was shrewd enough to foresee it, & accordingly held on.

accordingly when he thought the proper time had come, he disposed of my segar; & the adventure which in 1807 cost me a little over 8000 $ was sold in 1808 for somewhat more than 26.000 $ after deducting all the expenses of freight, & other foreign charges, giving me a *clear profit* of above 18.000 dollars — This I thought was doing a pretty good business — & it set me on my legs again — We received the *God send* with sincere & great joy — & I trust with heartfelt gratitude to Heaven — On my return to Boston the following Spring I received the whole amount from Samuel Williams of London in whose hand it had previously been placed. In this Autumn there was a grand military review in Hadley, of at least one Brigade — if not the whole, of the fourth division of Militia under the command of General Mattoon — a very fine affair The then County of Hampshire, which constituted the 4th division — embraced an area of fifty miles square in each direction, including the whole of the present three Counties of Hampshire, Hampden & Franklin — The 1st bridge over the Connecticut river at Northampton was opened, day in Oct of this year. A New Meeting house had been raised very near the old one, & had been covered the preceding year; & having now been finished was dedicated in Oct. The sermon was preached by the Rev Dr Austin of Worcester, son in law of Dr Hopkins, whose age & infirmities had, to say nothing of any other reason, disqualified him from officiating himself — This house was removed to Middle St in 1842 or 1843.

On the 4th day of Dec 1808, (Sunday) our second daughter Elizabeth was born in the Porter house in Hadley – She seemed to be a healthy child at first – but in the course of a month or two, either from constitutional debility, or too much overdosing or other mismanagement on our part, she became delicate & sickly through her life.

In the last of Dec. I visited Boston, & while there I ventured, on the strength of our recent success to incur a little more expense than had been usual for a year or two past. I procured several articles for my wife & children, & treated myself to the first & only cloak that I ever owned. I purchased also a horse & chaise, which being unnecessary was in fact an extravagant expense. I returned home & passed the Winter in Hadley. During the preceding Summer I had tried my hand a little at the law, but could not make it go, & my time was occupied chiefly in attending to the garden & house – The winter was passed in idleness. About April the embargo was taken off, & we began to think of preparing for a return to Boston. In May I hired of Cornelius Coolidge, a house in what was then Round Lane – leading from Federal St to Atkinson St. The house stood on the North side, & was the 2d East of Sister's St – To this house I removed my family in the last week of May 1809 – During this residence in Hadley of 15 months, I made 5 or 6 journies to Boston – each costing 10 or 12$ for travelling expenses only –

I now engaged again tho' somewhat cautiously in my former line of business - making some small shipments of Goods to Europe in freighting vessels - of which there were usually enough to be found - Our family affairs in the mean time going smoothly along. Through the summer & fall Elizabeth's health was gradually failing, and in Oct we concluded to try the effects of a journey upon her - We went first to Hadley - thence to Middletown - where brother Huntington was then settled - From there we proceeded easterly to Norwich - Thence thro Rhode Island to Providence, & on to Boston; where we arrived the latter part of Oct. after an absence of more than a fortnight A journey like this of about 300 miles - in a Chaise - thro a strange country for the most part - with a sick child in her arms - was of course wearisome & sad to an anxious mother; & to myself was any thing but pleasant or agreeable - Elizabeth had made no improvement in health - if anything was more feeble - & we were truly rejoiced to find ourselves once more at home - A month passed on. And Thanksgiving day arrived on the 30th of November we had dined alone - Not long after dinner - while we were sitting in the parlor - Elizabeth was taken with a convulsion fit. It did not seem to be severe, but it shocked her whole system, & left her in great distress, which continued pretty much thro the next day. I carried her about the parlor in my arms nearly 24 hours. while she was screaming in agony almost the whole time - at length she fell gradually into a state of entire exhaustion. in which she lingered till about 5 O'clk in the afternoon of Tuesday the 5th of Dec. - when she ceased to breathe, thus closing a short - sickly - and, as it seemed to us, a _suffering_ life - The funeral was probably attended on Friday the 8th; & her body was laid by the side of that of her brother Edward - about two months after this came the memorable _cold Friday_ of 1810 - there had been for several days a warm, misty spell of weather, & the streets were covered with mud. When about 10 O'clk in the evening of Thursday the wind instantly changed from So. East to North West; & the biting blasts of winter were at once down upon us in the short flight of an hour from the frozen forests of Canada. It blew tempestuously thro the night; and in the morning of Friday the mercury ranged at 5° below 0; the wind raged violently thro the day; & the whole of Boston Harbor smoked like a huge boiling cauldron - On Sat morning the harbor was frozen solid to the Lighthouse; & for 3 weeks the cargo of every vessel that arrived was unladen at Nantasket Roads, and transported on sleds over the ice to the stores in Boston I had an adventure then on board a vessel, which was prevented from sailing nearly 3 weeks - till the latter part of Feb. In June I visited Hadley to attend the Ordination of Mr John Woodbridge; & immediately after my return my wife & Sarah accompanied her Aunt William Parsons on a visit to Aunt Gray at Epsom - Mr Wm Parsons her Uncle, having kindly offered them a free passage.

Soon after this I hired a house of John Prince. No 4. in a block which he had erected at the lower end of Pearl St. on the East side; which we entered early in Aug 1810. Here Marian our third daughter, was born on thursday the 13 of Sep. following — apparently a fine healthy child — Having become at this period, somewhat leſs straightened in our pecuniary means, with a seemingly fair prospect ahead as to busineſs affairs, we ventured upon a somewhat less economical style of living, than we had heretofore indulged in. A new ~~&~~ larger house of course required new & better furniture to correspond with it — & a considerable expense was soon incurred in that direction — Mr Edward Cruft's family occupied the adjoining house No 5. & Uncle Theophl Parsons owned the large house & garden next above Cruft. Our neighbors were all kind & friendly, & the months passed pleasantly along thro' the autumn & winter without any special occurence to interrupt their tranquility — The annual State Election & meeting of the legislature took place at period & until 1830. on the last Wednesday of May. In the latter part of 1810. a new corps of Cavalry — "the Hussars" had been organized & were now, in May. 1811, prepared to make their first public parade — Their dress & equipment conformed in all respects to those of European Corps of a similar class. They numbered in all about 50 men, & were many of them of the Elite of Boston; & were commanded by Josiah Quincy — with the exception of 2 or 3 — (very clever fellows) they were every one of them *full blooded Washingtonian Federalists* — Elbridge Gerry of Cambridge, had just before in the same month of May been elected Governor — always a violent *Anti federalist* & from that year handed down to all future generations as the author & progenitor of the carving & mutilating plan of districting for party purposes, since known as the "*Gerrymander system*" — Such was then the Gov. Elect of Massachusetts! — The new corps of Hussars, tho' almost to a man uncompromisingly opposed to the Governor's Politics — yet with the double intent of doing honor to the highest office in the gift of the Commonwealth, & of improving so eligible an opportunity of introducing themselves to the public, unanimously tendered their services to his Excellency the Commander in Chief — as an escort from Cambridge on his official entry into Boston — The offer was accepted; Public expectation had been greatly raised, & was doubtless fully gratified — as the corps attracted much admiration & applause, as well on account of its martial aspect & discipline as the novelty & splendor of its uniform. Its first formation in line in its full dress, happened to take place in front of our house in Pearl St.

The current of our domestic affairs seemed to glide smoothly on thro the remainder of the year — & the following winter — with scarcely a ripple on its surface; excepting that in the fall of 1811. Mariam was attacked with a slight convulsion fit — giving us at the time considerable anxiety, calling up fresh in our minds sorrowful recollections of many

-distressing scenes, that we in years previous had already passed through - and tho this attack was by no means severe, yet a sense of danger would be frequently returning upon us. We remained in Pearl St thro the Winter, & left it on the 1st week in April 1812. when we entered the house then making the Northerly corner of High St & Summer St. just North of the end of South St, & owned by Judge John Phillips. The surrender of Prince's lease, which had sometime to run, cost me about 350 $. which was in a considerable degree made up in the reduction of rent paid for several years to Judge Phillips - my family expenses for the years 1810 & 11 had each a little exceeded 3100 $ a great deal too much -

On Sat. 27th of June 1812 - Louisa, our seventh child & fourth daughter, was born - a healthy & promising infant - As the country was now actively engaged ~~with~~ in a useless war with Gt Britain, all our commercial business was in a great degree suspended, & those, who had been fortunate enough to make money - & who had been prudent enough to save it, had now something to live upon - all others had to live by their wits. Having little else to do, the people on the sea board assumed somewhat of a Military Character - and made preparations for the defence of the cities on the coast against the threatened attacks of the British Navy. The Hussars also adopted a working uniform, & played the Soldier - tho they could not exactly foresee how or when their services could be very advantageously employed -

Gov Strong had *very* *wisely*, as the federalists of that day had unanimously declared — refused to let the Militia of Massachusetts be marched out of the State - except under the command of their own State officers (which President Madison would not consent to) & they were of course all kept at home for the purpose of defending our own shores, This service they alone effectually performed; the War department - having on the commencement of hostilities withdrawn every soldier from the State, excepting a company at the Fort Independence, which the United States were unwilling to abandon, as it would then of necessity, fall under the military possession & control of Massachusetts - an event, which Mr Madison, would probably have dreaded about as much as if it should have fallen into the hands of the British themselves - the whole expense of defending the extensive sea board of Massachusetts & the *then* (District of Maine, amounting to many hundreds of thousands of dollars were defrayed from her own treasury - about one half of which only has been repaid to her by the United States after a long refusal - the balance at this time, 1857, being still a repudiated debt of more than 40 years standing against the federal government — 1812

Louisa had been committed the care of a wet nurse Mrs Chittington, who resided in the family, & continued in that capacity about a year - The first half of Sep was spent in a journey to Connecticut - We passed several days with Brother Huntington at Middletown, visiting also New Haven & the

College, when professor Silliman put a practical joke upon my wife, by asking her to plunge her hand (having a gold ring on one of her fingers) into a large vessel of Quick silver – the ring came out of the immersion perfectly black; she thought it was spoiled; but I believe it was finally restored to its proper color. I had hired for the occasion a light carriage, & a pair of horses of Spurr & Holmes – Stables of some note in Boston; & Henry Stewart, a black fellow – who had lived in my family several years, & who was one of the best house servants I ever knew, was mounted on my white Hussar charger as a sort of outrider. Thus equipped we made quite a display for us, in journeying thro the Country. While at Middletown Henry was very much delighted & wonder struck at the Rhapsodies & shoutings of the Methodists, several of whose meetings he then attended; & Zack, brother Huntington's man, & some others of his cronies, were astonished at his wonderful knowledge of the world, & especially of the charms of City life, which he narrated in terms of most fascinating eloquence, he having formerly been a denizen of the noted village of Communipaw – on the Jersey Shore, somewhere below New York. In the prosecution of our plan we took Hadley in our route, & arrived at Boston about the middle of Sept. after a very pleasant journey of nearly 400 miles – Charles & Sarah accompanied us on the journey & possibly Francis – but of this I am not at all certain –

(Note, I was one of the party – I remember it well)
F. P.

The expenses of this peregrination amounted to 176 $. Spurr & Holmes's bill more than 100 $

The remainder of the year passed away without any noticeable event in my business or domestic concerns - Gov Strong who had been formerly elected for seven successive years - 1800 to 1806 inclusive, had been this year been again chosen in opposition to Elbridge Gerry, for the 8th time - He took strong ground against any offensive measures in support of the War just declared against England - but was willing at all hazzards to defend the commonwealth against all aggression. Our mercantile business was of course much embarrassed & cramped - but means were found - more or less indirectly - thro the whole course of the war, by which there was a considerable commerce carried on between the Northern States & the northern continent of Europe, & which, so far as I was concerned in it, proved on the whole quite profitable - my family expenses this year ran up to a very high figure; having somewhat exceeded 3600 dollars - but the loss of 350 $ on the Pearl St lease & nearly two hundred on the Connecticut journey were included in that amount, which will reduce the regular expenditure to about the usual amount, say less than 3100 $ The year 1813 brought with it no special occurrence - Mr Strong was elected Gov. for the ninth time, & New England politics remained unchanged - after the democrats had involved the Nation in War, the federalists, especially those of the middle & Eastern States, for the purpose of concentrating more effectually their views & feelings,

united in what they called "Washington Benevolent
Societies" - embracing nearly all of that party.
Their meetings were frequent, & very fully attended,
and doubtless a very important political effect
was thus produced - In the Spring of 1813 the
Boston Society resolved to have a grand parade
of all the various crafts - trades - and professions
in the community - The great attractive spectacle
of the day consisted mainly in a vast procession
formed of the different order & classes among the
people - arranged in some twelve or fifteen divisions
each with its appropriate symbols & banners, including
also a very large division of lads taken from the
Several ?
several schools in the town, in a nearly uniform
costume. The show came off on the 30th April -
was well got up - & was indeed a most brilliant
affair - Happening a few days since to take up
the original programme and the order given in
reference to the conducting of the procession - of which
I had the honor of being appointed Chief Marshall -
I thought that the occurrence might not be
inaptly noticed among these memoranda.
The original paper containing all the details of
the procession, list of marshalls, & the description of
banners &c. is among my documents on file -
Towards the close of the year, Chief Justice Parsons'
health was evidently failing; - & about the middle
of Oct. he fell into a kind of lethargic condition
& became somewhat stupid & comatose - these
symptoms gradually increased for 10 or 12 days, till
I think on Sat. the 30th of Oct - about 1. or 2
O'clk P.M.

his great mind forsook its frail tenement of clay & soared to a higher sphere of illimitable expansion I left him about half an hour before he died - the last sign of conscious recognition of his family was exhibited two or three days before his death while in the evening, several being present, he made an effort, & reaching out his hand to his wife, who was sitting on the bed by his side, he inclosed her hand in his - audibly uttering the words "the hand of my marriage" - The news of his death cast a deep gloom not only over Boston, but over the States of New England generally -

Soon after this the unwelcome guest visited once more our unprepared family - I have now no recollection that Louisa had ever before had a sick day in her life. But on Sunday, either the 19th or a week later, the 26th - but I believe on the latter day, on returning home from meeting, we found her drooping & something feverish - we thought that she had taken some cold & accordingly nursed her up - the fever held on - & the disorder gained strength - & in a few days, as I listened in the night watches, as she lay by our side - her burning flesh - her quick pulse - and her short & rapid breathing, filled me with anxious forebodings as to the result. They are all now as vivid in my recollection, as if the events have taken place during the past night, tho in fact the dim & dusty shadows of more than 43 long years lie between - She sunk gradually away till friday the 31st of Dec, when about 9 o'clk in the evening, her gentle spirit, after a few faint struggles, was released from suffering — & I trust also from all future exposure to sin — She left us indeed to _weep for ourselves_, but to rejoice on her account, that another of our dear _little ones_ had almost without any probation been called to swell the number of the blest & glorified before God in Heaven — She died when she was just eighteen months & 4 days old, at a period of life, when most children are becoming deeply interesting especially to their parents. Louisa was not a _beautiful_ child — technically speaking, but she was lovely & affectionate — I see her at this moment, in my mind's eye, sitting on my knee in the morning, as she usually did sometime before her death, while her mother combed — and parted — & smoothed her light & glossy hair — her mild blue eyes watching the features of her mother's face; she herself being always as placid and tranquil as the twilight in June, and seeming to be the very personification of quietude & gentleness. — In somewhat less than 4 years from this time, _that mother_, I trust rejoined her three departed children — the loved and the — Lost — shall I say? Oh no! the pen falters at the withering word —— But a deeper & more solemn question still presents itself — shall I ever be permitted to rejoin them? God alone can solve the _question_; & no clear & full & clear response will be given, till we pass behind the veil which separates the _seen_ from the _Unseen_ "Wait the great teacher — "Death" —

The departing year left us with sad & sorrowing hearts. The war with England still continued – tho' with few practical results, except the closing up of the regular channels of our commerce – & giving to our Naval Officers & Seamen occasional opportunities of proving their valor & skill in sinking or capturing several fine British Ships of War; & thus redeeming the character of our Navy, which had been somewhat tarnished by the loss of the Chesapeake frigate in the early part of the War. My own business was now chiefly connected with the trade of Northern Europe, more especially with the iron business at Gottenburg in Sweden – Some of my shipments of that kind having been quite successful; & during the two coming years, my business was almost wholly in that line – indeed during the war I kept quite a respectable wholesale & retail Iron Store on Long wharf —— My family expenses for the year 1813: amounted to about 3210 dollars – The cost of many articles deemed necessaries was at that period enormous – I notice on recurring to my entries at that time – 14 – 15 – & even 16.50 paid for a barrel of flour, & in the same year 1813, I find a charge of 61 dollars & another of 64 $ each for a barrel of sugar – weighing probably about 200 lbs each barrel – The coasting trade between the North & the South was, indeed for several years almost wholly destroyed; and the Southern business was chiefly carried on by the rivers & other interior communication –

In regard to our public affairs the year 1814 progressed for ~~a~~ great part of it as the preceding one had done; & the business of the country went on in much the same manner -

In the winter of this year my father's health had evidently been declining, & he felt unable to superintend the management of his farm, which he had for forty four years done in a skilfull & profitable manner. He accordingly leased on shares to two men - Smith & Daniels a great proportion of his home estate for a year, he boarding them thro the summer & fall, & Daniels thro the following winter. This arrangement went into effect on the 1st of April. Mrs Hitchcock ~~was there~~ & her two children were then members of his family - Charles being then 15 or 16 years old - my father had also a hired man himself - & with the aid of these - he carried on the residue of the farm. But this measure, tho probably the best, if not the only one which could have been adopted under the circumstances - was never satisfactory to him - & was, while he lived - a constant source of Regret & discomfort - In plain phrase, he thought they did'nt work it right - & I have no doubt ~~that~~ it wore upon his health - Early in Sep. I went to H, & assisted in repairing the floor of the front entry over the cellar - the timbers having become rotten & the floor sunk several inches - He was then quite feeble - tho' he afterwards took a journey to Middletown -

Sometime in Oct he sent Charles Hitchcock to Boston, with a wagon load of pork, which Mr H. says he assisted in loading— This was his last effort— he returned to his house—& took to his bed— from which he never arose—

On my visit to Hadley just mentioned, I saw John Morison for the last time. He was then bloated with dropsy, & just able to creep about. He was found dead in his bed a few mornings after I left him— —— Morison according to his own account, which was all we ever knew of him, & I never heard of his having seen in America any Scotchman that he ever saw at home, was born in the vicinity of Aberdeen in Scotland, & was brought up a gardener by trade, & worked some years in the gardens of the Nobility in the north of Scotland— At the commencement of the Revolutionary War, he joined a highland Regiment under the command of Col. Archibald Campbell— a name of long standing & high repute in Scotch military history— This Regiment was ordered to Boston, and arriving there a few days after it had been evacuated by the British troops in 1776 without any notice of that event— the ships sailed directly into port— & the whole Regiment were instantly made prisoners of War. John said that he was the Colonel's Waiter & probably he might have been— at any rate he was an excellent gardener— He had been two or three years in the country before he came to my father's, but with occasional exceptions of perhaps two or three years in all at various times he continued in my father's employ till his death - which I think took place Sep 12 - 1814 - He was slightly tinctured with the National superstition, & seemed somewhat, if not fully, to believe in the second sight - but I have no recollection of hearing him converse on these subjects except when questioned - The business concerns of the Nation had been constantly growing worse, & the political aspect had become not only gloomy - but seriously alarming - The five New England States had in the earlier part of the year resolved upon holding a Convention at Hartford to consider the State of the Country - & this assembly was now on the point of assembling - The wisest - ablest - and most patriotic of her statesmen had been selected for the purpose, & the eyes of the Nation were anxiously fixed on them. —— The National Treasury was exhausted, & the National Credit had sunk so low that not a dollar could be obtained in Europe at any price, nor in this Country unless at a discount of some 30 per cent - & the Stock of the United States I believe, was actually sold at ~~&~~ less than 70 cents for the dollar - France had been conquered & overrun - Bonaparte exiled to Elba Europe at Peace - & Great Britain left free with all her vast armaments, now unemployed - to carry on the War against the United States, Madison & his Cabinet were fully aware of the impending danger -

A large body of commissioners - five I think, were dispatched to Ghent, in Belgium to negociate, a peace - and the result was now waited for with a somewhat fearful suspense

1814

In the latter part of Oct. I received such accounts of my father's sickness, that I at once resolved to remove my family to Hadley - & there spend the winter. Accordingly on Sunday the 6th of Nov we left the corner of high & Summer St. after an early breakfast, and riding the rest of the day in a heavy rain we reached Leicester - & on Monday about dark we arrived at my fathers whom we found very feeble & Confined to his bed, but suffering little or no pain - He expressed great pleasure & gratitude at once more seeing us all around him - Caroline, our fifth daughter, had been born on Monday the 22d of August preceding - a fine healthy child - & was now about three months old, an infant in her mother's arms. She was then the only grandchild that my father had never seen - He welcomed the little stranger & gave her a grandfather's blessing

Tho there was not usually any daily perceptible change in my father's condition, yet the close of every week gave decisive proof, that he was constantly failing - His mind was unclouded to the last, & he took at times some interest in passing affairs - Some few days before he died, having made no written disposition of his property - he expressed his wishes on that subject, -

making a special request that Mrs Huntingto & myself should immediately after his decease convey by deed to Mrs Hitchcock & her son Charles two pieces of Land; which was of course strictly complied with - five or six acres lying just below the ferry in the upper meadow to Mrs Hitchcock & five acres to Charles, being the lot south of the road to Amherst, on which Mr Dickinson's house now stands.

In the evening of Monday Nov 28 we felt a slight shock of an earthquake, it was however only momentary. Thursday the 1st of Dec was thanksgiving day - in the course of the next day there was a decided change in my father - & he then sank rapidly - On Sat. Evening his breathing became difficult, and he seemed in great distress - which increased thro the night - every breath being heard thro the whole house - In the morning the paroxysm gradually gave way - he lingered for a few hours longer, & about 3. O'clk in the afternoon of Sunday the 4th of Dec 1814. he ceased to breathe - His sufferings might not have been really so great as they seemed to be, but it was certainly a relief to those about him to know that they were now ended -

My Father, Charles Phelps was born at Hadley Aug 14. 1743 old style - & was therefore 71 years old in the preceding Aug. He was altogether a self made man, having had none of the advantages of education except those of a very common school in his native place - He was endowed with good - plain - practical common sense, and possessed a pretty accurate knowledge of human nature - He considered himself an experienced farmer; & never made any pretensions beyond what his actual position & influence in society fairly authorized him to assume - His usually correct judgment as to all the ordinary concerns of life was sufficiently known & appreciated to make his opinions & personal services frequently useful & acceptable especially in that portion of the County composed of its more central towns. It appears however from an old "Massachusetts Register", of 1797 that the State authorities did not at that time consider him as having a sufficiently high standing to entitle him to a commission as Justice of the peace; for in that year - the same authority gives but a single person, as holding that office in the town of Hadley & that was Eleazar Porter, the then chief Justice of the Court of Common pleas for the County of Hampshire, which then consisted of the present 3 counties. But I well remember that in 1799 several justice actions were brought before him, which he decided - In politics he classed himself with the straightest sect of the old School Federalists - & such for a long succession of years was the political character of the town, there having been nearly - & I think in some cases, an unanimous vote returned for Gov Strong - Alas! - for the change! We knew nothing them of the midnight orgies of unprincipled party Cabals —— In his religious opinions my father probably ranked with the moderate Calvinists of that day - he eschewed the new Hopkinsian doctrines altogether - & perhaps, might have been a *very little* inclined to arminianism, as his old Minister, Mr Hopkins was after his death, accused, by Mr Woodbridge his Successor, to have been - But tho my father was fully persuaded of the truth of his own religious opinions - as regarded himself - he was catholic & tolerant of the opinions of others - I never heard him denounce any ~~any~~ one for entertaining religious opinions differing from his own.

Soon after my father's death, it became necessary to make some provisional arrangements for a division of the estate, as a final one could not be made during the life of my Mother. who held by descent in her own right - a very considerable share of the real estate occupied by my father. This division was completed about the close of Dec. & was substantially the same which was finally established & confirmed after my mother's death. In the month of March in this year, the new South Religious Society, of which I had long before my marriage, been a member - took down their old wooden meeting house, & erected what was at that time thought a splendid stone church - It was finished during the year, & was dedicated I think on the 29 of Dec, my family being all at Hatley, were none of us present on the occasion. My family expenses this year were very considerably reduced - having amounted only to the sum of 2343 dols -

About this time the Hartford Convention had closed its labors, & appointed a respectable Committee of its members to repair to Washington for the purpose of laying before the Government & Congreſs some propositions with regard to a more succeſsful and satisfactory mode of prosecuting the War with Great Britain.

The meetings of the Convention had always for obvious reasons been private & confidential; the the results at which they arrived were all that the public had really any interest in knowing - The various discuſsions & opinions & arguments which ultimately led to those results were of course of little real consequence to the community - but the patent fact of their secret deliberations was at once seized upon by the administration, & the South generally as conclusive evidence of the treasonable designs, not merely of the members of the Convention, as individuals, but of the hostile & treasonable views of the New England States collectively. The people of the East were no doubt very generally opposed to the war, both in its commencement and progreſs; but they were neither enemies to the Union, nor the adherents of England, & to charge them as such was a gross - malicious slander, and falsehood. They thot the War was unnecessary — unjust & ruinous; but they resolved from the first to withhold neither services — time — nor money neceſsary for their defence, or for preventing & succeſsfully resisting all the hostile aggreſsions of the enemy —

They had in fact long since, called into the field large portions of their militia, & expended vast sums of money for the common defence — True indeed it was, that these efforts were intended for, and actually applied to, the immediate & neceſsary defence of their own territory.

But were they not a part of the common Country? And by whose neglect & premeditated dereliction of duty were they thus thrown back upon their own unaided, & even to this late day of nearly half a century of unrequited services & pecuniary losses? And was any other portion of the Nation thus abandoned to its fate? Not One! But had this been all the east would have made but small complaint. The disgraceful injustice, the crying sin of the government perpetrated against New England consisted, not merely in leaving them to defend themselves, which they were well able & willing to do, but in the further requisition made upon them of paying into the federal treasury their full proportion of the public revenues, derived as well from the direct taxation at that time imposed upon all the States of the Union to the amount of nearly the whole regular expenses of the government, as also from the custom house duties that were collected from the little commerce then carried on in the several Atlantic States - of which New England then furnished her full share, - besides laying upon her the additional burden of protecting her own soil - and defending a maritime sea board of the United States to the length of many hundred miles - with scarcely so much as a single sentry or gun belonging to the Nation on the whole line - a trait of history somewhat similar to this may perhaps be found in the treatment of the Hebrews by their Oppressors & taskmasters in Egypt. -

The heart & soul of New England had resolved to relieve itself, if practicable, by fair - honorable & legitimate means, from so unjust & disgraceful a bondage - The great mass of the people were desirous of adopting some plan for the future conducting of the War, which, while it should secure a fair & just remuneration to the North, for their efforts and sacrifices, should at the same time be advantageous & honorable to the whole Country; Such, as I have always understood the subject, which was the great leading principle in which the Hartford Convention originated, & which dictated & governed all its deliberations & measures. -

With this view they resolved to submit to the federal Government a proposition, substantially to this effect; - that as the New England States had been required to furnish their full assessed share of the direct taxation imposed upon the Nation during the whole war, and had thus far actually paid it into the U. S. treasury — & had during the same period been left to defend their whole line of Sea Coast & territory against the common enemy - by their own unassisted & unrequited Military services and pecuniary expenditures — they might be allowed during the remainder of the contest which seemed to give little hope of a speedy termination — to collect & appropriate the whole — or at least a stipulated share of the revenue accruing from the direct taxation of the New England States towards defraying the great expense they were compelled to incur for the necessary defence of the inhabitants — their homes — & their soil —

This I suppose I was the sum & substance of that great treasonable conspiracy — "conceived in sin" & nearly consummated by the clandestine efforts of a body of Northern traitors (slanderously so called by the South) whose names had till then stood - and, thank God! did still stand thro life - foremost among the beloved able - true hearted - & unflinching patriots & statesmen of the land — This is the *Hartford Convention*! The terrific *Northern* Phantom conjured into being by the fears & jealousy & rancor of Southern leaders; & which was allowed to frighten a few weak minded honest men out of their proprieties - the whole democracy of the South out of all its senses. — Thus closed the third year of the war. About the 1st of Feb 1815 intelligence was received at Washington from our Commissioners at Ghent that a treaty of peace with Gt Britain had been duly signed —

This was truly a God send to the Administration. The government might have expected it - but the nation at large was probably not more rejoiced than surprised at the event. The News was forwarded instantly by expresses to all parts of the Country, & was every where hailed with the most enthusiastic joy & delight. — The federalists rejoiced in the event as the termination of ~~the~~ a war, which they thot, not only *unnecessary*, but destructive to the best interests of the Country — & also as reopening the channels of a *peaceful* at least — if not a very profitable commerce — while it would also call back the industry of the nation to its accustomed pursuits & occupations.

The administration & all the democracy of the land rejoiced — as they well might — that the *Peace* had rescued the country from the utter bankruptcy & ruin, which had threatened it; & still more - that they were thus relieved from the responsibility of a War, to the successful management of which, they had unequivocally proved themselves incompetent — & whose disastrous effects had already so nearly overwhelmed them in irretrieveable disgrace. In the exuberance of their joy & self gratulation they overlooked [ignored] the humiliating fact that not a *wrong* was righted by the treaty, nor the least allusion made to any — for the ostensible redress of which, the War had been declared. There was indeed sincere & universal thanksgiving throughout the ~~xxx~~ Union that the evils of a protracted & oppressive War were now about to cease —

The 22 of Feb 1815, Washington's birth day - was named for the celebration of the event in Boston; when all the usual demonstrations on these occasions, such illuminations - fireworks - military parades - balls & feastings - were there displayed in great splendor & magnificence - An occasion like was of course interesting to the sojourners at Hadley; who had been with some impatience waiting for an opportunity of returning home. As soon as peace had been proclaimed, I took Charles & went to Boston, to be present at the coming celebration - & while there initiated some measures for our return - & for resuming my business - On recurring to my books of that date, I find that even on that visit, after peace was proclaimed, I paid 42 $ for a barrel of sugar - probably not less than 20 cts a pound - I believe that it was in the preceding Dec. that our house at the corner of High & Summer Sts had been broken into, but it would seem merely for the purpose of stealing a very valuable flute, as nothing else was ever missed; tho' there were some slight marks of an attempt at one of the closets, which would have been bootless, if it had been successful. as no silver had been left there - But the thief to this day remains, not only undetected, but even unsuspected, - for the only person I knew, who had probably sufficient knowledge of its locality - & who would have been likely to covet its possession I always believed to be perfectly honest.

Towards the latter part of April we left my mother's home, & returning to Boston, commenced business again in a very small way; having previously engaged a man - John White of Hatfield - to carry on my part of the Hadley farm. The barn & cowhouse were built this year by Richard Osborne & David Jones. & cost not far from 600 Dolls each - about the 22d of Sep we visited Hadley again - and while there experienced, perhaps the most severe south easterly storm - the equinoctial - I ever knew - It proved very destructive in its ravages throughout New England. many isolated trees & buildings were blown down & destroyed - & many acres of large forest timber were prostrated to the earth - On our return to Boston two days afterwards, there was scarcely a town thro which we passed, that did not furnish melancholy evidence of the violence of the tempest - at Watertown 7 miles from Boston, the trees were all covered, & the leaves seared & scatched by the sea spray which the wind had furiously driven from the Harbor of Boston; & in that place as well as many others - chimneys were blown down, & much damage sustained by the shipping -

The Unitarian Controversy was this year maintained with great heat & vigor by both parties - the great Orthodox guns. Drs Worcester of Salem - & Stewart & Woods of Andover bearing down with all their force upon poor Unitarianism - while Ware - Channing & Thacher nobly sustained its defence

This year 1815. was signalized by the great

& decisive battle of Waterloo on the 18th of June, which was followed in about three weeks by the complete investment of Paris by the allied army, the entire overthrow of the imperial government, & the flight of Napoleon, & surrender of himself, as a voluntary prisoner on board a British Ship of the line - in preference to falling into the hands of the allied chiefs - the Duke of Wellington - & Prince Blucher - the commander of the Prussian forces thus closing the long & sanguinary war of France running thro more than a quarter of a Century.

At this period the commerce of Europe & America was fast resuming its usual peaceful relations - men bred to the business & well established in it, might indulge reasonable hopes of success - but the untrained - desultory Shipper must now expect as a matter of course to pocket more losses than gains - & the truth of this was fully verified in the business in which I allowed myself to engage, small as it was - for the two succeeding years. Such being the aspect of things, I was induced at the close of the year to accept the office of Cashier of the Massachusetts Bank, which had been vacant since Mr Thwing's embezzlement and dismissal, its duties having been performed meanwhile by Mr Head, one of the directors - Mr Wm Parsons - another director - whether influenced by a strong feeling of personal friendship, or by a settled conviction of my fitness for the office - or partly by both, was quite desirous that I should take it - There is, in fact, no doubt that thro his influence alone, it was offered to me. I trust that I duly appreciated his kindness — It was indeed but one, tho a marked one — of an uninterrupted series of kind & friendly acts, sometimes I fear not highly deserved — which began with our early acquaintance, & continued for more than forty years — till his death —

But if Mr P. did really think me possessed of any qualification for the office beyond moral honesty & fidelity of purpose, he committed almost the only mistake, with which I ever knew his judgment to be fairly chargable — But whether the choice was a judicious one or not, there can be no doubt it was prompted by the kindest feeling possible towards myself. And as Sarah's feelings & views so entirely coincided with my own, that a plan of life, which would seem to promise us a competent support in Boston, would be much preferable to falling back upon the Hadley farm, it is not surprising perhaps, under all the circumstances, that I concluded that ~~that~~ the old maxim applied to poetry, did not necessarily apply to Banks — & that a man — who would go to work in earnest, might *make himself* a passable cashier — altho he could not lay any possible claim to having been *born one* — I accepted the office —

On the 1st of January 1816. I became cashier of the Massachusetts Bank, & took formal possession of its keys & treasures. The directors were friendly & courteous — & the clerks all very civil — attentive

& obliging - I believe there was no change of directors or Clerks, while I remained in the office - & my relations with all of them were of the most friendly character, & I believe were mutually satisfactory. But the change of life was not on the whole pleasant - I was for six days of the week confined to the Bank from 9. to 3 O'clock, which often brot me to a cold - & always to a solitary dinner - after a while, the confinement itself became not merely irksome, but positively injurious - my health suffered for the want of exercise - of which I have needed a great share thro' life - many persons can obtain all the exercise it required for their health by a daily walk of several miles - but all such, I imagine, feel an interest in, & derive a real pleasure from the very fact of locomotion, & beholding a great variety of objects. It is not so with me - I can perform labor as a duty - I can journey to visit my friends, or on business - and can thus gain the incidental benefit of restoring or increasing my health; but to ride or walk for the specific purpose & aim of passing over so many miles of space - & receiving therefor so many ounces of flesh, is a kind of drudgery, which I never could have any heart to submit to, & which if I had done it - could only have defeated the very end & object attempted. Of course my health continued to decline - I became nervous - irritable - & desponding - till at length, after a wearisome effort of twenty one months, I resigned an office which neither physical energy - technical education - appropriate talents, tact or taste ever enabled me properly to fill ——— The resignation had been a subject often talked of in my family for weeks, if not months before it took place, & I had no doubt was fully expected by my wife. But when I announced it to her as a fact accomplished - the effect upon her was so visible - impressive - & lasting - that I would willingly, if practicable, have withdrawn my letter to the Directors. But more probably of this in its proper place.

Having thus gone thro with my cashiership - I now resume the events of 1826 about the last of April I visited Hadley for the purpose of arranging the farm affairs & making preparation for building a house &c. John White was again employed, who continued in charge of the farm a for a year longer - Having contracted with Richd Osborn to build me a house, I was occupied during a part of the time in laying out the foundations & digging the cellar - I then returned home - & saw nothing more of it till its completion in Nov following. It was raised, I think, on the 4th of July 1826 - (I find by my mother's diary that it was raised on the 3d being Wednesday, the prayer made after sunset) & a prayer was made at my request on that occasion by brother Huntington, who had previously removed from Middletown to Hadley with his family.

Towards the close of Nov I took my wife to see what I thought might at a future day become her residence – The buildings were then about completed; and I then settled up the accounts with Osborn, giving my note according to the original agreement – for the balance – (about 1500 $) payable in the succeeding April – But when the note was paid him, he proved himself a knave – by absconding with the money, & cheating many of the persons, whom he had employed, out of their just dues – I have also ever entertained strong suspicions that he defrauded me out of large sums – but having no positive evidence of the fact, I of course make no direct charge. Of his dishonesty, however, no one had the least doubt.

Previous to our return to Boston, we installed Mrs Hitchcock, with Charles & Martha her children in their new dwelling; & my wife & myself lodged in the Southwest chamber, the night preceding our departure, as their guests. The first and the last time for her! ——

Sometime about Midsummer, the Revd Mr Thacher, ~~fast~~ finding his health fast failing, was advised to try a voyage to Europe as a last resort – & he soon sailed for England, thence again for the Cape of Good Hope, where he resided during the winter of 1817, and after a long & distressing voyage in April, & May reached England again in June. His physicians then sent him to the South of France where he arrived in the autumn, & fixing himself at Moulines (I believe) lingered out for a few months longer a suffering existence till some of the first days of Jany (the 2^{d}) 1818. when he thankfully yielded up his gentle spirit to his heavenly Father. —— "He died", said his servants — "like an angel" — The last of Aug 1816 or early in Sep. I left the house at the corner of High & S. Street. & removed to that of Mr Eben Parsons opposite the New Church — My last residence had been on the whole much the pleasantest, which we had ever occupied. The house was convenient & well accommodated our family, & afforded a beautiful & uninterrupted view down the South St. It stood on what was then thot to be the *Garden Street* of Boston — in a very agreeable neighborhood — & from which, within a distance of about twelve rods, we could visit the families of our most intimate relations those of Mr Eben — Wm & Gorham Parsons — & what we deemed still further advantage, it placed us within a two minutes walk of the church in which we worshiped. There was also a chaise house & barn, and a small garden attached to the premises. These & many other untold comforts & blessings bestowed by a kind Providence upon us were, I trust, in some degree gratefully appreciated at the time — But their true worth & importance were afterwards more sensibly felt by us, in the contrast so distinctly realized in the coming future — —— We had occupied the house four years, from April 1, 1812 to April 1, 1816 under annually renewed leases; from Judge Phillips —

But about this time he had sold the estate to Ralph Haskins, & I held the occupancy under him for about 5 months, till Sep 5. when he took possession of it himself - This was by far the longest occupation of any house in which we had ever lived - & this period of time may truly be called the Halcyon days of our Boston housekeeping. And even now, after the lapse of more than 40 years - my memory recalls many of the scenes & events of that day as old - familiar - & welcome acquaintances.

My Family expenses for 1815, (which I have omitted to state at the proper time) amounted to the very moderate sum of 2078.92 - an economical expenditure! while, I know not for what reason, the expenses for this year 1816 rose to the enormous sum of 3352.70.!! - being the largest expenditure for the family in any year of my housekeeping from my earliest marriage down to this present year of grace - 1857. From the experience of the preceding year we had some ground for hoping that my Salary as Cashier, (2000 $) would nearly, if not quite, support my family; & that prospect was a strong inducement to the acceptance of the office - But sometime before the close of the current year, it became sadly apparent, that we were far outrunning our income - This result was however in no degree connected with the farm - for every charge & expense in any way applicable to the farm, was carried to that specific account, I find however among the minutes of this year an analysis of the family expenses, which gives the whole in detail, & shows that the subject attracted particular notice at that time - but affords no explanation of the increased expenditure - In addition to all this, I have during the year, engaged in five different shipments to Europe, the most of which, if not all, threatened me with serious losses - In this discouraging state of things we closed the outgoing year

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The commencement of the disastrous year - 1817 - found my family in four months occupation of Mr Eben Parson's dwelling house where we remained 4 months longer - till the last of April - In this house, on Sunday the 16th day of March. 1817 our 4th Son Arthur was born - the ninth & last child of his Mother, & the only one who survived her without remembering her - a fair & healthy child - who drained the last precious drops that flowed from his Mother's breast - In April we took another step on the downward track, & hired a house in Eliot St. of Adam Smith the leading truckman of Boston - The house was barely passable - & the greater portion of the neighborhood below that. I had calculated upon our removal on the 1st of May - & on the last week in April made a short visit to Hadley to arrange matters with Charles Hitchcock about the farm, during my absence however my wife, who had but just dismissed her nurse, undertook & accomplished the removal herself; & on my return to Boston, I found a new home in Eliot St. comfortably arranged for my reception - On this first night of my return, I had retired prostrate & exhausted from sickness & fatigue, & the family all quiet & still, when I was roused by a loud call from the street to preside at the meeting of a military company for the choice of Officers - to which duty I had been detailed by a Special Brigade order of Genl Welles -

I pleaded fatigue & physical inability - but all in vain - If the Election was not held & the return was not signed on that day, the officers to be chosen in that corps would of necessity lose their relative rank as compared with others in the Brigade to be elected on the same day - & it was now too late in the night to allow an order to pass its various stages detailing another presiding officer - I therefore, very reluctantly I confess, obeyed the order - my uniform was all to be looked up, and my whole military attire to be donned - After all this preparation I marched forth, & arrived at the Exchange Coffee house near State St, not far from 11. o'clk & completed the Election before the clock struck the hour of Midnight - The weeks passed away, & my flesh & strength seemed to passing away with them -

about this time the intention of President Monroe to visit New England was officially announced; & measures were at once adopted for his reception in Boston with all the honors due to his official rank & station. Orders were issued – (I think from Head Quarters) detailing the Battalion of Cavalry attached to the 3d Brigade – (the Boston) of 1st Division of the Massachusetts Militia to assemble at the Southern termination of Washington St – then called Boston Neck – to receive the President of the U.S. whenever he should arrive at that point. & to escort him & his suite to his lodgings at the Exchange Coffee House in Boston, through certain Streets – named in the order of procession as arranged for the occasion – Notice having been accordingly received that the President would probably reach the Boston line, on Wed. the 2d day of July, at such an hour in the forenoon – the Corps was early on the ground – drawn up in Order of reception, with their right flank resting on Roxbury line, with a broad open space in front, guarded by pickets & sentries – In this position they awaited the President & his Cortege –

At length the roar of the cannon near Roxbury Meeting House announced the fact that the President was then passing the summit of the Hill – & in a few minutes he was at the Line – about 12. O'clk. He halted just long enough to receive the customary Cavalry Sword salute, & three flourishes of trumpets,

&

signified his readineſs to proceed – The escort then wheeled into marching order of threes, posting a few files on the right & left flank of the President's carriage, as a guard of honor, & took up the line of March – in reversed order the left of the escort leading the whole – thus bringing its commanding officer on its right, directly in communication with the personage or the functionary thus escorted. (I have been thus particular, because many persons, out of Military life, & some of those in it, seem not to understand clearly the true principle of escort duty. At least it so appears to me)

As soon as the President & those more immediately aſsociated with him in his journey had opened sufficient space, the Municipal government of Boston, at that time Selectmen – & the various deputations in attendance – with the invited guests both civil & military – all in carriages, succeſsively fell into the proceſsion in his rear – After them came an immense assemblage of splendid carriages filled with the aristocracy if I may so call any of the inhabitants of the plain – sober – Republican Town of Boston – & these were in turn succeeded by a vast cavalcade of mounted citizens – thus closing, what seemed to the eye, an almost interminable line of living & breathing pageantry. The escort at length reached the Exchange wheeled into line – & after paying the honor of a passing salute to the Chief Magistrate of the nation - as he entered his lodging - were dismissed -

After this splendid reception given to the President on his entrance into Boston, it was concluded further to honor the occasion, by a grand military review of the troops; & Monday 7th of July was the day selected for the purpose - The weather proved to be very fine, tho' rather uncomfortably warm for field duty, as it usually is at that season of the year - The Huzzars were of course in the field - with the light Dragoons - This was my last appearance in a military capacity - Just 40 years ago, this day - I commanded the Cavalry, at the Presidential Review on Boston Common - & contributed my last efforts to do honor to what I deem to be the most exalted office known to the nations of the Earth - the Presidency of the ~~Union~~ Glorious Union of the United States —
[Such at least was then my conviction - & full faith - whatever may be thought of it in 1857] — At the close of a sultry & somewhat fatiguing day's service - I threw aside a uniform - which I had worn - I must say, with some degree of pleasure, if not pride, and I trust without discredit to myself or others - for a period of Seven years; and bade a final farewell to all my fantastic greatness & bloodless mimicry of War -

Shortly after this I resigned my commission, & received from the Commander in Chief, on the 27th of September 1817 – an honorable discharge — [The following paragraph should have been inserted in the account on page 83 – between the 2d & 3 line from the bottom]

The pupils of the Boston schools made a most conspicuous part of the arrangements of the day – They were drawn up in two lines, the boys on one side, & the girls facing them on the other, from the foot of the common at the South East corner at Boylston St, extending up the whole distance to Park St. church – leaving a wide space between the ranks – & numbering about 4000 of both sexes – Between these lines, the whole procession passed, entering the avenue from Boylston St – just East of the Burying ground – The boys formed the West line, & the girls the east one next to the Mall on Colonade Row. The girls were all dressed in white – & each one wore a red & white rose – to indicate that both political parties were united on this occasion – The President was so struck by this display on the Common, that he stopped the procession to gaze at the sight – It was doubtless by far the most interesting spectacle of the day – Francis recollects being present – Benjamin Russell's Columbian Centinel of that period – furnishes a detailed account of the President's reception & his whole visit, which was said at the time to have equalled a Roman Triumph —

The removal of my family to Hadley which had frequently been a subject of conversation, had now become a question of serious interest.

The few Shipments I had made in 1816. excepting one, which had barely saved itself, had all been closed up with a loss somewhat exceeding the sum of $ 2100. This year I had engaged in no busineſs beyond that of the Bank - and my family expenses for the first six months had already amounted to 1200 $ - being $ 200 more than I had earned - while the expenses of the last half of the year would doubtless, as usual, exceed those of the first some two or three hundred more - Retrenchment is quite a familiar topic for discuſsion; but it seldom happens that families or individuals are very succeſsful in carrying out its practical results - In our case at least, further efforts seemed hopeless, & removal presented itself rather as a neceſsity than a measure of choice -

It was clear that my salary would not support us in Boston - My own health was evidently failing - & a home - tho at that time not a very inviting one, was ready for us at Hadley; - but one which would at any rate give us shelter, without rent charge - about the close of August I had therefore, tho reluctantly concluded to leave Boston. I have no date to enable me to state the exact time when I resigned my office; but it was probably early in Sep. & we were soon after making preparations for our departure.

Some time in the summer Dr Lyman of Hatfield called upon us. The conversation turning upon the buildings which I had recently put up at Hadley — I remarked that I had built a house for my wife, which I hoped might be a happy home for her in her old age. — The words were still passing my lips, when an involuntary shudder, thrilled thro my whole frame, which seemed to say in all but audible language — "Your hopes are blasted — She will never enter it" — I state this simply as a fact — without allusion to either cause or effect — & this is the first — & only notice ever taken of it — Another incident, having however no connection with the preceding one is also now fresh in my memory, & which made a deep impression on my feelings at the time. It occurred probably on the 2d or 3d Sabbath in Sep. — perhaps a fortnight before our expected removal — The children after breakfast were all dressed with scrupulous care & neatness — & they all excepting Arthur, the infant, accompanied us to meeting at the "New South" in Summer St. Charles — Sarah, Francis — Marianne & Caroline — a precious little band — in which, including Arthur, were centered the fondest hopes & the warmest affections of both Mother & father — after the morning service, as we were walking home through Essex St, my dear wife remarked to me with a degree of emotion not usual with her — that she had brought all the children with us that day, who were able to attend, as she felt a strong desire that we might all once more go together to the Sanctuary, where we had so long & often worshiped — and that she might, for the last time thus publicly dedicate anew to God, those, whome He had kindly given, & thus far had graciously spared to her:— for it was not probable that, as a family, we should ever meet there again ——— She expressed her devout gratitude that the opportunity had been granted to her. "The future rests with God, & is hidden from us" — I shared deeply in her sentiments & feelings — The conversation had been serious, and the occasion ought to have resulted in a more tranquil frame of mind — but I reached home sad & dejected —

The two following weeks were chiefly occupied in preparation for our removal; and the last day of Sep had been named as the day for Eliot St. I can find no minutes which will enable me to determine the day on which my wife had been taken sick; but it was probably about Monday the 22d of Sep. In the midst of all the confusion & turmoil of taking down beds, packing trunks — & boxing up furniture, she was struck down by a violent typhoid fever — surrounded by all this unavoidable noise & tumult, she lay for several days prostrate upon her bed, & for two days at first racked by intense pain in the head, back & limbs; with a raging fever parching up her frame; & yet occasionally giving directions, about the work then in progress —

At length the arrangements were completed, & on tuesday the 30th of Sep. with much difficulty & greater anxiety on my part, She was placed in a coach, and carried — a very sick woman — to her Aunt Theophilus's house in Chauncy Place; where she was attended & nursed with all the care — tenderness, & solicitude, which love & affection could possibly bestow — we were now entering upon Oct. & this was the week, in which we had hoped to find our family comfortably settled at Hadley. But "man appoints — & God disappoints" — we were not to leave Boston so soon, & one of us never — The three girls were at Aunt Theoph's, with their sick mother Uncle Wm Parsons invited Charles, Francis & myself to stay with him — & Arthur was sent to Mrs Woodman to be nursed, I think once or twice daily —

The few things we had still retained were now shipped for Hartford, & the bills collected for such articles of furniture as had been sold — There was one circumstance connected with this Sale, which gave me at the time considerable uneasiness — we had a pair of mirrors quite large, for common families at that day & one of which, (being the fellow of the one, which has for about 40 years occupied the space between the South windows of the parlor in which I am now writing) it was thought best to sell, as there was no room for it in this house, as it was at first built. The measure itself was reasonable & proper — but the idea forced itself on my mind that it was but a presage of the sundering of a Union of far deeper interest and character — The depressed state of my feelings doubtless greatly fostered such impressions —

But however foolish & simple the idea might be, it had not been reasoned into my mind & I could not entirely reason it out. The disease of my wife had now settled down into a regular fever, & we had only to watch from day to day its gradual progress - and full often in the silence & gloom of midnight were counted in anxious suspense -

The tedious hours that slowly crept away
Till "on the weary night dawned wearier day".

At length towards the middle of Oct, the fever relaxed its grasp, & more favorable symptoms encouraged our hopes — about the 15th a young woman, Mary B. Spear - was engaged as a wet nurse for Arthur - and they both, at Uncle & Aunt Williams took up their abode in his family till we left Boston. - For a week Sarah was evidently better - she was regaining both her appetite & strength - tho slowly - & on Sat. the 18th the Doctor thought she was so far improved that I might safely leave her, & go to Hadley, where my presence was then very much needed - accordingly on monday the 20th at 6 o'clk in the morning, I commenced my journey with Charles & Francis for my companions -

I had seen my wife at an early hour in the morning - had found her apparently very comfortable - and had parted with her - tho' still on a sick - bed - yet with encouraging hopes of her speedy recovery - But I had parted with her for the last time -

It was fine Oct. weather - & we accomplished our journey without accident, & arrived at what I could only call my half home, on tuesday about dark. But the journey had been to me any thing but pleasant - it had indeed been sad & oppressive - a dread of impending evil was pressing me down thro both days - & the burden seemed to be no lighter on the third - I was then however a poor downcast Hypochondriac, & all these depressing feelings were naturally to be expected -

The next morning - Thursday the 23d as I was standing at the North door in the wash room about seven O'clock a stranger on horseback rode up to the door & gave me a letter - As I took it, the blood curdled at my heart - & I seemed sinking to the floor - But God sustained me - "My wife is dead"? - "Yes Sir" was the reply. When did you leave Boston? - yesterday at one O'clk afternoon - He declined rest & refreshment here & returned to Benj Smith's tavern -

At half past 10 Charles. Francis & myself were on our way to Boston where we arrived at the same hour on friday, riding (with several relays of stages from Brookfield) a great part of the night - Brother Huntington & I think Edward followed us in the afternoon, & reached there friday ~~morning~~ evening - The letters which I had received by the express on thursday, were from Dr Rand & Mr Wm Parsons - The first was dated at 11. O'clk Wed. forenoon, & gave an account of my wife's condition till that hour -

On Monday she had been considerably agitated, but on tuesday her aunt thought she looked better than she had seen her at any time before - & had passed a good night - She sat up in bed to eat her breakfast - but before she finished it, was seized with a violent spasm in the right groin - which brought on severe pain. He visited her three times during the day, & his prescriptions having all operated kindly, she appeared in the evening much relieved, & exhibited no remaining external symptoms of the morning's attack except a soreness of the parts - The night however was restless - & about 3 in the morning she was seized with a spasmodic attack of the heart - which was soon succeeded by a difficulty of breathing - and at last by cold sweats, which betokened a speedy dissolution. When he closed his letter, she was rapidly sinking - but in the full possession of her reason - ——— The other was a very affectionate & sympathizing letter from Uncle William dated at One O'clk Oct. 22. informing me that "Our dear - dear Mrs Phelps has left us one hour since - She died without a groan or a sigh" ——

I believe that Aunt Theoph has told me that on monday forenoon it had been arranged that Sarah should have taken a short ride - but that when the horse came she tho't herself unable to make the effort - -

(The above mentioned letters are on file with many others, in my Secretary -) Mr William Parsons had relieved me from the task of making all the necessary preparation for the funeral — and it accordingly took place on Sat. the 25th Oct. 1817 from the house of Aunt Theophilus Parsons in Chauncy Place. It was the home in which of all others my Wife would have wished to die, if, as in this case, she must have died away from her own — Her body was placed in her Uncle Eben Parsons's tomb in the "Common Burying Ground" by the side of her father & our three deceased children — On the next day — Sunday — President Kirkland preached an occasional discourse from James 4th v.13 & 14 verses which was tho't to be of very pertinent application —

We had _now_ accomplished the work which had been left us to do in Boston; & on Wed. the 29 our cousin Charlotte Parsons & the nurse — (both of whom passed the Winter in Hadley) together with myself, & those whom a kind as well as righteous Providence had left to me, took our final departure, — as a family — from Boston. & on friday the 31 of Oct arrived without accident at Brother Huntington's for the night.

My mother who was then quite feeble & helpless sat at the supper table with us for the last time. She was greatly affected at our arrival, & died the 11th of Nov.

On Saturday the 1st of Nov. 1817 we took joint possession with my Sister Hitchcock — of our new — sad — and disconsolate home — which thro' God's kind providence & blessing has been my resting place for almost 40 years of my long life and which has proved to have been a much happier home than I ever expected, & most certainly a far – far better one than I ever deserved –

Having thus brought down such personal reminiscences, as I could readily wake from their long slumber, from my first acquaintance with that lovely & beloved woman, whom it had been my privilege – my pride – and my happiness to call my wife – to that sad & mournful event, which dissolved forever our earthly connexion – a connexion of unfaltering love & uninterrupted harmony through the whole period of our wedded life; – I cannot lay aside my pen without sketching a brief memorial of her worth & excellence –

To say that her figure was perfectly symmetrical, that her walk was dignified & graceful – her manners bland & easy – & her face more than attractive, would all be true; but would add nothing to her intrinsic merits. —— Yet a few additional particulars may not be wholly irrelevant or uninteresting. Her person was of full average height, & at the age of seventeen, much inclined to corpulency – but at twenty was a model of female form & proportion – Her complexion fair & clear – with a slight occasional tinge of the rose; – her eyes were grey, rather mild than piercing – and the combined expression of her countenance, indicating at once the soundness of her understanding, & the tenderness of her heart, Her intellectual powers were strong & vigorous, tho' as has been before stated, not highly cultivated – her lot thro' life having been chiefly cast among her near relations, many of whom possessed distinguished talents, but none of them mingling much in the fashionable walks of ~~life~~ Society. Indeed her connexions all belonged to what were then called country towns, till she had become several years of age. Many of them were devout christians – & she had been trained to a conscientious discharge of every social & religious obligation – As her disposition & temperament were unusually gentle & conciliatory; her deportment was of course never obtrusive, but rather retiring; & among her friends in the social circle, she was always welcomed as a favorite companion – Her passions & affections were ever in harmonious action, & seemed to be always subjected to the entire command of her Will; – I never saw her angry – and I never knew her fond, She united herself with the New South Church in Boston, then under J. T. Kirkland's care, I believe early in the year 1801 – (of which I had been a member from the 1st of Jany 1798) — It need not be recorded that she was a dutiful & affectionate daughter, both to her parents by marriage, (adoption?) as well as to her natural father; – a discreet, tho devoted mother to her children – & a kind & considerate mistress to all under her charge, Residing for many years in the family, & under the eye & direction of her Aunt Theophilus Parsons, she was fully instructed in all the duties of domestic life — & perfectly conversant with all its details — Home, indeed, with its cares — its interests — & its joys — was the element in which she found her highest gratification & delight — The poor shared her bounty, the sick & the sorrowful her sympathy & aid. And in all the varied scenes & relations of life, in which Providence called her to act, it was her earnest desire & her unceasing endeavor to discharge every duty with scrupulous fidelity: & as One who expected to render an account —

At the bottom of the 70th page allusion was made to the effect produced upon my wife by the announcement of my actual resignation of the office of Cashier. The following observations are now added as a marginal note, to the reference there made

On hearing the statement she stood for some moments silent & motionless. —— being informed that Mr Payson was to be my successor, she remarked that there was at least one person — Mrs Payson — who would rejoice at my resignation. — And from that moment, I have no recollection, that she ever opened her lips on the subject. She rarely indeed, if ever, alluded to Hadley as her future residence; & her attention was now mainly occupied, as it very properly should be, with the objects immediately surrounding her —

Indeed neither of us could then be charged with entertaining any undue hopes of happineſs from a country life — nor with even a desire to try the experiment any farther than neceſsity demanded. All our predilections were in truth concentrated in the boundaries of Boston.

From our earliest acquaintance, she had always manifested a cheerful & buoyant acquiescence in every present condition, & bright & hopeful anticipations for the future. But a visible change seemed now to have passed over her aspect & feelings. There was no failure in duty, nor any relaxation of effort, — but there seemed to be little interest, & still less pleasure, manifested in its performance — She was sad and discouraged, and appeared as if thought her task nearly ended, & that her only aim & purpose should thenceforth be to discharge the few remaining duties of life with scrupulous fidelity, & a calm & humble resignation to the Divine Will.

The same air of dejection & hopeleſsneſs attended her during the whole course of her sickness; and from her first attack, I very much doubt, if she ever for a moment entertained any real expectation of recovery — This desponding apprehension however was never expressed in the language of her lips — but her daily looks & actions spoke a language that no attentive observer could fail to understand — I perceive that I have sketched a somewhat gloomy picture. A morbid imagination may possibly have given to some of its

to dark a shade; —

but the impression made nearly 40 years ago by the sad realities, which I then saw & felt, is still much too deep to allow the pencil to be dipped in much brighter colors ——

Having mentioned at the foot of the 87th page the death of my mother, which followed that of my wife in such quick succession, that it might well be called the concluding scene of the drama; I now subjoin a short notice of her family & character, as a fitting close of these imperfect & desultory recollections of bygone years.

Elizabeth (Porter) Phelps — my mother — was a direct lineal descendant of Samuel Porter, one of the original proprietors & first settlers of Hadley; & his descendants have composed many of the leading families of the town during the last two centuries. The first Samuel — the settler — arrived in Hadley near the close of the year 1659. The second Samuel was born in the following april, and was the first male child born in the town of European parentage — The third Samuel was born in 1685. (he had a brother born in 1698. the first Eleazer) The fourth Samuel was born in 1709. He had a younger brother — Moses — born in 1721 —
The three Samuels last-named were, I believe, each of them the first-born child of their parents.

In her diary She says she gave hand to Charles Phelps a few moments before 4. O'clk - Polly Porter & Dorothy bridesmaids - 30 couples at the wedding.

My mother was the only child of Moses - She was born Nov 15th 1747 - old style - & was married to Charles Phelps of Hadley June 14. 1770. This connexion, I believe, was thought - by the Porter families of that day as somewhat beneath her rank & standing. But it proved to be a very fortunate & happy Union for both parties.

Among other groundless apprehension it was feared that he would squander her estate; but it was managed by him with great prudence, judgment & foresight; & at his death, he had greatly increased the number of its acres - besides having vastly enhanced the intrinsic value of the original property - My mother was said to have been comely in person, tho of less than the average height -; & in later life somewhat inclined to a full figure - tho' not corpulent.

For many years before her death, she suffered much from shortness of breath, & was frequently quite feeble & diseased - though not often confined to her house. Her mental powers were good & well adjusted, but not remarkable for strength or brilliancy - In mixed society she was cautious & guarded in her conversation, & I never heard her speak evil of any one - The law of kindness dwelt always upon her lips. With strangers she was rather reserved & silent, but among her friends & familiar acquaintance she was free & communicative, & ready to sustain her share of the conversation. She was a most indefatigable reader; & at some periods of her life, frequently allowed the

evening

to run far towards the morning before she laid aside her book. Her reading embraced almost all subjects, but was directed more especially to Novels - belles-lettres - & Theology. Her religion was deep seated in the heart, & was rigidly Calvinistic, as was then the prevailing creed of all New England.

From the early impressions of my childhood - derived most probably from her teachings - I think she must have viewed the power & sovereignty of GOD as overshadowing all his attributes of Love & Mercy. The earliest idea that I remember to have formed of God in my childhood & Youth, represented him as a being of human form - of large dimentions - sitting on his throne - clothed with terrific power - angry with all his creatures & threatening vengeance & destruction upon the whole guilty & rebellious race of Adam.

These characteristics were not indeed all regularly drawn out in detail in my youthful mind; but the one dread image that rose to my view was - an all powerful, angry - and World hating God. And yet this was the Being whom I was directed not merely to obey, but required to love - a Being whom, with such conceptions as I could then form of him, I could not possibly regard except in the light of an enemy, who was ready with uplifted arm to crush & destroy me - Indeed such is the image, which even to this day is very apt to rise spontaneously in my mind, when the thought of God presents itself. The reasoning faculty may do much to produce true & correct results at last; but I have to this day found it impossible wholly to obliterate the deep impression made upon me by the teachings, feelings, and associations of my early youth. And even now, when standing on the verge of life, a cloud of doubt & despondency often settles down on the mental vision _ and almost for the time, extinguishes even hope that the Gospel would inspire __ But perhaps all this may be only the natural working of the carnal & unrenewed heart.

Let the effect however upon myself have been what it may,. I have no doubt that a shade of gloom often overspread the usually bright and cheering prospects of my mother's religious experience.

Her views of religion I think, had become in some degree modified towards the close of her life, & she was certainly more tolerant in her opinions of those who differed from her, & her charity could allow that others might be christians, tho not believing in the five points of Calvinism

But whether correct or not in her doctrinal views, her great aim was ever to maintain a conscience void of offence towards God & man & she died, as she had lived, a sincere _ devout, & humble christian __

The preceding sketches of persons & events were commenced early in April, & have been continued — with many intervals — as my mental & bodily powers have permitted till the present time. I then thought that all I could recollect of the period to which I proposed to confine my remarks — that is down to the death of my first wife, & my removal from Boston to Hadley — might easily be contained in a few sheets of paper, & would not at the most, exceed twenty pages — If I had foreseen either the mental effort in arranging — or the manual labor in writing out — the unlooked for amount of incidents & scenes, which to my surprise have risen up in my memory — I should certainly have shrunk from the task — But one step naturally leads us on to another, & we almost unconsciously proceed in the hope that a few more will bring us to the end; — And in the joyful accomplishment of such a hope, I can now gratefully say that I have in this case at last reached the end.

During these 4 months I have been gradually tho sensibly failing. The brain is often dizzy, & the mind bewildered — the sight has become hazy & dim — & with difficulty follows the pen, or traces the line — the muscles have become rigid — the joints inflexible, & the step faltering — & I am thus daily admonished by unmistakable tokens of that silent & sure decay, which inevitably awaits all that appertains to earth, May God in his mercy prepare us all to enter into the joys of his presence —

Hadley July 28th 1857

Finished copying the manuscript July. 16. 1858. F. P.

Of the personal history of my second wife, C. P. I knew very little – I left her father's family when she was less than two years old – & I knew her only as one of our younger cousins – who frequently passed an afternoon with us – I regarded her as an estimable young lady – & the cousin & friend of my wife; but of the special incidents of her private life, & the minute details of her character, I had no knowledge till after the death of my wife & my settlement in Hadley – – And all the prominent facts & circumstances of her life & character, during our marriage, are now as fully within the recollection, of a multitude of others, as they are within my own – Many of the preceding remarks apply with still greater pertinency to the events & incidents which have transpired within the period of my third & last marriage – since to the whole of the previous history of my present wife, I was of course an entire stranger, till within a few weeks of our Union. Our joint history since that time is too recent to require either record or comment from my pen.

Aug 8. Each of the within sheets, was examined as it was written off – & many errors were corrected & many omissions – repetitions – and discrepancies probably still remain – But I have neither sight – health, nor resolution enough left to enable me to revise them again. Much of the time I am sadly depressed – C. P. P.

It is a source of great comfort to all his children to know that before he left the world the dark cloud that had for so many years hung over his mind, entirely pass
away & allowed the light of the other world to illumine

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List of houses in Boston occupied by my family from 1800. to 1817 inclusive, and about the length of time which each was lived in; & the yearly rate of rent. The rent usually began some weeks earlier & continued much later; (occasionally some months,) than the time, they were actually occupied.

Owners	when entered		when left		time Occud yr.	mo.	Rate of Rent	Amt paid
Josiah Knapp Jr	1800	Sep 1	1800	Dec	about	4	330.	117.00
Eben Parson	1800	last Dec	1803	Ap 30	1.	"	250.	250.00
" "	"	"	"	"	1.	4	200.	267.00
Elijah Dix	1804	Augt	1805	Nov	1.	3	333.33	417.00
Josiah Quincy	1805	Nov	1807	Augt	1.	"	500.	500 —
" "	"	"	"	"	"	9	400.	300.00
Mr Jos. Tilden	1807	Augt	1808	Feb	"	6	450.	225.—
Corns Coolidge	1809	May	1810	Augt	1.	3	450.	562.50
John Prince	1810	Augt	1812	Mar 31	1.	8.	600.	1000.—
John Phillips	1812	Ap 1	"	"	1.	"	400.	400.
"	"	"	"		1.	"	300.	300.
"	"	"	1815	Dec 31	1.	9	350.	612.50
Ralph Haskins	1816	Jany 1			"	3	350.	87.50
"	"	"	1816	Augt		5	500.	205.50
Eben Parsons	say 1816	Sep 1	1817	Apl 30		8	600.	400.
Adam Smith	1817	May. 1	1817	Oct 31		6	300.	150.
(Left in fact Sept 30.)					yrs 14.	8 mos		$5794.

14 yrs 8 mos housekeeping in Boston,
1 " 3 " at Hadley in 1803 - 4
1 " 3 " " " " 1808 - 9
(12 mos of it in Porters house)
8 " first eight in 1800 spent with our friends -
17 " 10 "

1. Knapp's Orange St- East Side - just South of Eliot St.
2. Eben Parsons - Summer St - next west of his own -
3. E. Dix. No 59 Orange St West Side - 20 or 30 rods - So. of Eliot St.
4. J. Quincy - top of Fort-Hill - Oliver St. West Side -
5. Widow Tilden - corner of Milk St & Bath alley -
6. Comm.s Coolidge - Round Lane - about middle No. Side.
7. J. Prince - No 4. Pearl St. North end - East Side -
8. J. Phillips - corner Summer & High Streets - oppo.s South St.
9. R. Haskins same house bought by him.
10. E. Parsons - Summer St. his own Mansion - Oppo.s New So'
11. A. Smith - Westerly end of Eliot St. North Side -

Statement of business concerns, expenses &c from the Embargo in 1807 till the close of 1817

General estimate — supposed to be nearly correct. as follows
The gain on a Shipment of Sugar to Holland in 1807 which cost about $ 7000 (& sold there during the Embargo) was clear gain

say			18,300	
gain on sundry Shipments & other business				
" , from 1809 to 1815 inclusive			24. 200	
" " sundry other sources Interest &c.			730	
Lost in the same years by other Shipments			43. 230	
from 1809 to 1815 inclusive		8.700	3. 500	Salary 1¾ y
Store rent & other expenses of business		6.400	46.730	
Family expenses the same seven years		19. 200		
		34. 300		
Lost in trade (no gain) in 1816 & 1817		2.100		
Family expenses in 1816 — 3352. — in 1817 — 2578.		5.930		
Hussan expenses 400. Horse & chaise a/c 200.		.600		
		42.930		
Balance left on closing my business in trade in Boston		3.800		
		46.730		
For farm at Hadley before removing there viz for 10. Merino Sheep, nearly a total loss		Balance	3.800	
		1.000		
Barn &c. in 1815 say	1,200			
House & other buildings in 1816	5.800	7.000	5,000	borrd
		8,000	8.800	of Mr
Balance taken to Hadley Oct. 1817		.800		Wm. Pa
		8.800		

From the foregoing Statement it appears the profits of my mercantile business in Boston - from 1800 to 1808 inclusive - leaving out of the case the great Sugar adventure, which strictly fell within the business of 1807 tho the avails of it were not realized till 1809) were just about sufficient to support my family during those years; and that by adding the gain upon that Shipments to the nett amount gained in my business for the years 1809 to 1817 - and including also my bank salary. 3500 Dolls for 1 3/4 of a year, the whole net profits, besides maintaining my family during those Nine years, left a surplus of $ 3.800. of which sum, one thousand (1000.) was about thrown away on Merino Sheep bought for the Farm; and 2000 $ more applied towards the Buildings thereon. The remaining 800 $ was brot. with me to Hadley. — The 5000 $. borrowed of Mr Wm Parsons, was all expended in building the house; & the amount was some years afterwards repaid to him - say May 21. 1823. by a deed for 75 acres Mount Warner land - 16 acres of Meadow - & 9 acres below Bridge lane - This same land was on the 27 of the same month reconveyed to me during my life - & after my death given to the six surviving children of my first wife - it being - as he stated - the amount which he had intended to give to their Mother by his Will, in case she had outlived him.

The transfer of the abovementioned land by me for the payment of my debt to him, had of course greatly reduced the number of acres; but the whole sum of 5000 $, borrowed – and 2000 $ more of my own money – making 7000 $ in all, had been expended in the erection of buildings for the sole benefit of the farm.

That portion of Real Estate, which fell to my share, after the death of my father & mother, was valued by the appraisers at $ 9767.39½. — I very much doubt, if all that now remains of it, which is my own disposable estate – viz the lot on the east side of the highway, with the buildings thereon, & the opposite lot on the West side – were now to be sold in 1857 it would command that sum – This shows pretty clearly, that I was no better qualified for an agriculturist, or a farmer, than I had previously been for a lawyer or a merchant. But by the blessing of Heaven upon my efforts I have been able for about 40 years to pay my debts & support my family; which perhaps is as much as Providence ever authorises us fairly to expect.

C. P. P. d. 1857

Finished copying the whole on
Sunday – July 18. /58. F. P.

Hussar Uniform & other things:

Cap. Green feather. much gilt on it chain &c.

Under coat. covered with gold cord & embroidering and
2 rows each side of Round gilt buttons, one row
going up & passing round from shoulder to shoulder & down again.

Pelisse: red cloth - trimmed with gold cord embroidered,
round gilt buttons & fine fur on the wrists.

White Cassimere tights, military boots worn over them.
the boots are gone but the brass spurs are there.
& another pair of plaited.

Portmanteau & Canteen -

2 Pistols, & things belonging to them. cartridges &c.

Square bag. Much embroidered, belonging to the
Sword belt about 12 inches square.

Part of the bridle. Breastplate for horse, nose bag, halter

The cap was held on by a gilt chain fastened under
the chin. chain made of scales lapping over each other
other chain work on the cap, cap black.

Hussar Roll.

Josiah Quincy 1st cap.
C. P. Phelps Lieutent 2d cap.
Richard D Tucker
Richard Sullivan
J. W. Adams
John Aiken
Geo. W. Beale
J. S. Colburn
Chas. D. Coolidge
A Crocker
Thos Cushing.
G. L. Dwight
Andrew Eliot
Wm Gill
Patrick Grant
James Green jr
Aaron Hardy
L. D Harris
R. D. do
Ralph Haskins x
J. W. Hayward
Jos. Head
Ezra Hyde
Charles Jones
Nathan Leach
Danl. Mallory
Wm Marston
Edward Munroe
Geo Murdock
Samuel Myers
James Prentiss

x Ralph Haskins resigned Feb. 10. 1817
Received Drum in lieu thereof,
average cost of Uniforms 195.00
Officers in July 18. 1812 were C. P. Phelps
R. D. Tucker
Saml. Hubbard

Thos. Rice
Henry Rice
Saml Salsbury
Rob. G. Shaw.
Horatio Sprague
Wm Sturgis
Charles Thacher
T. Thaxter
Saml Torrey jr
Nathaniel Tucker
H. H. Tuckerman
Alfred Welles
Walter Whiting
Jos. Wiggin
Saml G. Williams
Geo W. Lyman
Saml Hubbard
Green Pearson
Moses Williams
W. Edward Jeffries, died & buried under arms.

Caroline & Greenleaf married Dec 27 1842
Marianne & Alfred married June 13. 184~~7~~9=1849
~~Caroline & Greenleaf dec Dec 27. 1842~~
20 acres in meadow
37 " about the house
Rand was shot- June 14 1801. Sunday morning.
C. P. Phelps died Dec 22 1857 - Tuesday night a little
after 12 - 85 years old.
Father was in the Legislature in 1839 & then
probably went, with Mr Parsons, to Byfield, & made
the Codicil to Mr Gorham Parsons's will.
Father's leg broken Aug. 1843
Capt. Moses Porter, was killed by the Indians in
a Morning Scout in 1755. He was found tied to
a tree, dead - His wife was born in 1719 &
& died in 1798. These were grandparents of Chas. P. Phelps
It is believed Grt-Grand M., never knew exactly how he was
killed Major Sylvester says several men of his company returned
but great pains were taken to keep the details from her of his death
He built the East part of the house, afterwards raised by C.P.P.
& Grandfather put up all the West part, north Kitchen Stoop &c

Father's articles

~~Watch~~	— — ~~Francis~~
Francis	Watch & Scales
Arthur	Spyglass
"	Smallsword
"	Fowling piece
Charles	Toolchest
"	Sabre
"	Pistols
"	Uniform
"	Surveying Instruments
William	case of Instruments
"	Violin

Removal of the Remains of my own Mother Sarah D. Phelps & Edward, Louisa & Elizabeth, from Uncle Eben's tomb at Mount Auburn into Mr T. Parsons Lot —

1862. Aug 9. Caleb J Pratt's bill	9.00
" " 19. McDonald's bill	30.00
" " 20 Mount Auburn bill	9.50
car tickets	0.73
	49.23

this sum was divided by 3. & was paid by Charles, Francis & Arthur Phelps each 16.41

Valuation of Real Estate in Hadley by appraisers

Homestead with various Buildings	3100.00
Land East of the Road	1200.00
Land. West " "	3100.00
	7400.00

Nov 1. 1865

after an unsuccessful experiment to have the farm managed by Charles & Arthur, the latter gave up, & Charles bought all the live stock, & farming tools of every description — Arthur retired with a loss of several hundred dollars. — It was soon plain the farm gave the heirs nothing & Mrs Phelps (the widow) chose Mr Hitchcock & Mr Smith to say what the heirs should pay her annually — they decided she should receive 100.00 — the heirs have annually paid her 104.00 for the last 7 years —

The appraisers called the household furniture	598.87
Miscellaneous articles —	1908.00
	2506.87

Account of the Lots on Farm in Hadley

4 acres on the flat, between Fred's barn & the path.
6 " South of path.
7 " Mowing West of these two flats.
4 " — " East " " "
5 " In lot North of Barn.
1 " Bog grass east of this lot.
3 — " Good " — by Tan house hill.
4 " Orchard on Hill.
5 " In lot South of this orchard
5 " South of this lot
6 " Bogs between our lane & Amherst Road
4 " orchard below the garden,
4 " Buildings, yards, & gardens
58 "

If the whole meadow was laid down to grass, probably 30 tons, at least, could be cut from it —

The lot North of the barn is more or less injured by the roots of the Elm trees running into it 10 rods or more — making it difficult to plough it, unless it is done often.

Spring of 1867 — Charles Phelps bought back the Bridge Lane lot of Marianne for 1200. Alfred never had our deed to Marianne recorded

John Morison, a Scotch Highlander,
captured with Col. Campbell in Boston Harbor
June 1776 died in the family of Charles Phelps
in Hadley Sep. 12 & was buried on the 13. ~~12~~ 1814. aged about 65.

Violet died Aug. 25. 1823. aged 84 and
Buried in tomb of Wm Parsons 110. central B. ground

Bethia remembers hearing Aunt Hitchcock says she helped John Morrison up to bed the night he died — In a letter from Grandf. to Father at that time, he says he was dreadfully bloated, & suffered much — after he went to bed he, Grandf., went up to see if he was comfortable, & left Charles Hitchcock to watch. there was no light in the room & Charles hearing no breathing, went down & got a light & on his return found he had died. Such was the condition of the body, it was laid in the earth, the next day — — — — There are a few letters, that I never saw before from Grandfather to father & one from Charles Phelps & one from Sarah Phelps (their first letters) to father — father & mother were at Hadley in Sep. 1815. Charles's letter dated 17 says of me that Francis has been a very good boy & has not been near any wharves yet. —

Arthur went to Europe Dec. 1853, in the Race Horse — owned by Sassgi. Greek.

Sarah was in Oswego in Spring of 1834
In the college vacation that spring I ~~sett~~ out to walk to Hadley. Got as far, the 2d day, as Westboro, when a snow storm induced me to take the Stage. Coming back, I walked to Ware Village, then took the Stage to Worcester, intending to walk to Boston. But the Steam cars ran to Needham, first time that day, & I came in on the train. each car was a big hack.
I went to New York 1830, in March.
Arthur's name changed in 1838.

1743
435
4
226

2408
17

7)2391
341-4

31
28
31
30
31
30
31
14

226